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COUNTY BOROUGH OF ST. HELENS



Annual Report
of the
Medical Officer of Health
for the Year 1959

G. O'BRIEN, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health
and Principal School Medical Officer

Telephone: St. Helens 4061 (Extension 231)

St. Helens:

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TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS OF THE
COUNTY BOROUGH OF ST. HELENS

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit the Report on the health of St. Helens for the year 1959.

The following statement shows some of the principal statistical rates during the past five years.

	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
Birth rate per 1,000 of population	16.0	16.8	17.2	16.9	17.1
Death rate per 1,000 of population	11.0	10.7	10.7	11.4	10.8
Infant Mortality per 1,000 live births	32.9	27.4	31.0	35.8	24.3
Maternal Mortality per 1,000 total births	3.79	1.04	0.51	0.51	1.02
Tuberculosis death rate per 1,000 of population	0.25	0.14	0.16	0.17	0.12

The birth rate of 17.1 per 1,000 estimated population shows a small increase over that for 1958. The infant mortality rate at 24.3 per 1,000 live births is the lowest rate recorded for the Borough, the previous lowest rate being 27.4 in 1956. The improvement in this rate was mainly a reflection of the fall in the number of deaths attributable to pneumonia and congenital defects. Deaths from prematurity also showed a slight improvement, there being 15 deaths in 1959 compared with 17 deaths in 1958. Further details are given in the section of the Report dealing with Maternity and Child Welfare.

With the exception of measles, the incidence of the main infectious diseases was very low during the year. Only two cases of poliomyelitis occurred during the year. One of these children, who had unfortunately not been vaccinated, was left with a residual paralysis. The other child, who had received two injections, had a mild attack only and made an uneventful recovery with no residual paralysis, which was undoubtedly due to the protection against poliomyelitis given by the two initial injections.

The immunisation and vaccination services were very active during the year. A total of 10,738 persons received two initial injections against poliomyelitis during the year and, in addition, 12,976 third injections were given. This is a very good result indeed, and it is pleasing to note that despite this emphasis on anti-poliomyelitis vaccination, the more established procedures of vaccination against smallpox and immunisation against diphtheria were not only maintained but showed an increase over the previous year.

The work of Slum Clearance proceeded during the year, and at the end of the year the scheme to deal with Central Ward was confirmed by the Ministry and will involve the demolition of some 289 properties in the area. During the year 148 houses, in other slum clearance areas of the town, were demolished. A report submitted by the Chief Public Health Inspector outlining a programme for declaring Smoke Control Areas was approved by the Council, and it is anticipated that implementation of an initial five year plan will be proceeded with in the near future.

During the year the provision of a new Junior Instruction Centre continued to receive active consideration. Alterations to the original plans were carried out in conjunction with the Ministry's advisers. Owing to the shortage of technical staff of the Architectural Department of the Local Authority, it was found impossible to complete the plans for final Ministry approval before the end of the year.

Comment must be made on the initiation of a scheme for the in-service training of teachers for the new Junior Instruction Centre. Details of this will be found in the Mental Health Section of the Report.

The expansion of schemes under Section 28 continued successfully. Considerable use was made of the After-Care Service and Occupational Therapy scheme, while the number on the priority tuberculosis waiting list for re-housing reached its lowest number in the history of the town. The new Chiropody Service was also successfully initiated by means of a subsidy to the St. Helens Council of Social Service, which had for some time maintained a scheme for aged persons. Once again, details of the scheme are given in the Care and After-Care Section of the Report.

Finally, I record with satisfaction the opening of our new Health Centre at Carr Mill. It is a Centre of the most modern construction and design, and from its inception has proved an immense boon to the entire housing estate on the north side of the Borough. This is the first in a series of modern Health Centres which have been planned for construction over the next five years.

Increasing expansion of services and the launching of new projects has placed, throughout the year, a considerable strain on the clerical, nursing and medical staffs of the Department. It has caused inevitable delay in the publication of this Report, but even in the light of these factors, the work of the Department has been carried out efficiently during the year. For the successful advances which have been made in the various services, I am deeply indebted to the willing and able assistance of every member of the Staff. My thanks are also due to the members of the Council for their help, advice and the mature consideration given to many of the schemes submitted to them during the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

G. O'BRIEN.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE, 1959/60

Chairman:

ALDERMAN M. A. SHARD, J.P.

Deputy-Chairman:

The Right Worshipful the Mayor
COUNCILLOR J. F. McDONNELL, J.P.

Alderman W. Burrows, J.P.

„ J. E. Hughes, O.B.E., J.P.

„ W. Marshall

„ J. O'Brien

„ R. Rennie

„ J. Thackray, J.P.

„ J. A. Waring

Councillor R. S. Ellison, J.P.

„ J. J. Henebery

„ E. Kerr

„ P. M. Lowe

„ C. Martin

HEALTH COMMITTEE

The Public Health Committee and the following:

Mrs. H. B. Bates (co-opted)

Mrs. B. McGhie (co-opted)

Dr. D. R. Holden (nominated by the Local Medical Committee)

Mr. W. Davies (nominated by the St. Helens Executive Council)

Mrs. E. M. L. Else, J.P. (nominated by St. Helens and District Hospital Management Committee).

STAFF

Medical Officer of Health and Principal School Medical Officer:

GERALD O'BRIEN, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health:

JAMES HUTCHINSON WALSH, L.R.C.S.I., L.R.C.P.I., L.M., D.P.H.

Assistant Medical Officers of Health:

Enid M. Hughes, M.B., Ch.B.

Mary Pilling, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., C.P.H.

John E. O'Malley, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Margaret P. Gardiner, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., D.C.H., D.R.C.O.G.
(from 5.1.59)

Dental Officers:

Vincent Higham, L.D.S., Senior Dental Officer.

Martin C. Downer, L.D.S., R.C.S., Eng., Asst. Dental Officer (ceased 28.2.59)

Public Health Inspectors:

Chief Public Health Inspector: Nathaniel Birch

James R. R. Norris, *Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector*

Griffith R. Hull, *Atmospheric Pollution Inspector*

Henry T. Rothwell, *Specialist Inspector*

Fred Platt, *Specialist Inspector*

Thomas Dean, *Specialist Inspector*

Ronald Charles Stuttle, *Specialist Inspector* (ceased 1.11.59)

Norman Smith, *Specialist Inspector* (from 23.2.59)

John David Lyon, *Specialist Inspector* (from 2.3.59)

John B. Douglas, *Public Health Inspector*

Kenneth Simm, *Public Health Inspector*

Brian A. Taylor, *Public Health Inspector*

Derrick G. Roberts, *Public Health Inspector* (from 1.7.59)

Health Visitors and School Health Visitors:

Superintendent: Rita Lamb

Lilian S. Boardman

Emily E. Cameron

Edith Lilian Farmer (from 6.4.59)

Margaret Gandy

Teresa J. Howard

Catherine Knowles

Irene L'Amie

Margaret P. O'Brien (School Nurse
from 1.7.59)

Constance M. Pennington

Jean Pennington

Annie Pimblett

Eveline Semple (from 1.7.59)

Marian Singleton (from 1.7.59)

Mary B. P. S. Vaughan (from 1.7.59)

Leah Fazackerley (Part-time)

May Fairclough (Part-time)

Muriel H. Pearcey (Part-time)

(ceased 31.8.59)

Margaret P. Heffernan

(ceased 11.9.59)

Hazel M. Wright (from 6.4.59)

Eileen O'Connor (School Nurse)

(from 1.7.59)

Eileen O'Connor (Health Visitor)

(from 18.8.59)

STAFF—continued

Student Health Visitors:

Margaret Patricia O'Brien (ceased 30.6.59)
 Eileen O'Connor " "
 Evelyn Semple " "
 Marian Singleton " "
 Mary B. P. S. Vaughan " "
 Mary Hughes (appointed 6.7.59)
 Veronica M. O'Ryan (appointed 6.7.59)

Midwives:

Non-Medical Supervisor of Midwives: Audrey I. Robinson

Margaret Boulton	Caroline Leonard
Edna Davies	Mary McCormack (ceased 31.3.59)
Eileen Evans	Elsie A. Parr
Sarah J. Gilroy	Amy Simm
Kathleen Gaskell	Florence Stanier
Marilyn C. Hamer	Kathleen Somers

Chief Clerk: J. J. Spencer

Welfare Officer (Prevention of Illness, Care and After-Care):
 Miss M. Miller

Tuberculosis Health Visitor (Part-time): Mrs. Bridget Jackman

Physiotherapist: Miss Barbara Jean Harrison, M.C.S.P., O.N.C.

Home Help Organiser: Mrs. E. G. Oldridge

Duly Authorised Officers:

Eric Causey (Mental Health Worker)
 Mary McKenna (Mental Health Worker)
 Norma M. Rickarby, B.Com. (Social Study) (Mental Health Worker)
 James C. Ratcliffe (Mental Health Clerk) (ceased 1.2.59)
 John R. Bratt (Mental Health Clerk) (from 2.3.59)

Occupation Centre Supervisor: Miss I. W. Marsh

STAFF—continued*Clerk/Dispenser:*

Albert Spencer (also part-time Welfare Officer, Special Treatment Centre)
(ceased 5.11.59)

Ambulance Service:

G. M. Norman (Ambulance Superintendent)

Day Nursery: F. Kitts (Matron)

The following are Part-time Officers:

Consultant Obstetricians:

Percy Malpas, M.B., Ch.B., L.R.C.P., F.R.C.S., F.R.C.O.G.

Henry V. Corbett, M.Sc., M.D., Ch.B., F.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., M.M.S.A.,
M.R.C.O.G.

Area Chest Physician:

J. B. H. MacArthur, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.P.E.

Public Analyst and Agricultural Analyst:

J. G. Sherratt, B.Sc., F.R.I.C.

Dental Officers Annie Patricia Farrell, B.D.S. (from 11.5.59)

M. J. McCann, L.R.C.P. (Ireland) Anaesthetist

Dental Nurse: Maureen Barnes

I.—GENERAL AND VITAL STATISTICS—1959

Area (acres)	8,887
Population (estimated, mid-year 1959)	110,700
Rateable Value	£1,041,095
Product of a penny rate	£4,133

STATISTICAL SUMMARY FOR 1959

	M.	F.	Total
Live Births:— Legitimate	930	902	1,832
Illegitimate	30	31	61
Totals	960	933	1,893

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population	17.1
Still-Births:—M. 43, F. 28; Total: 71.	
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	36.2
Total live and still births:—Live	1,893
Still births	71
	1,964

Deaths:—M. 686, F. 506; Total: 1,192.	
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population	10.8
Deaths of infants under one year of age:—	M. F. Total
Legitimate	26 20 46
Illegitimate	— — —
	26 20 46

Death Rate of infants under one year of age:—	
All infants per 1,000 live births	24.3
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births.....	25.1
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	0.0

Neo-Natal Deaths: (i.e. Deaths of infants under one month)
Deaths: M. 17 F. 14 Total: 31

Neo-Natal Death Rate: (per 1,000 live births)	16.3
Number of women dying from diseases and accidents of pregnancy and child-birth:	2

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still births)	1.02
--	------

Deaths from Measles	1
„ Whooping Cough	—
„ Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	4
„ Tuberculosis (all forms)	13

Table V.S.1 gives a summary of the vital statistics for the past 50 years.

Table V.S.1.
Statistics for St. Helens

YEAR	Population	Birth Rate	Crude Death Rate	Infant Mortality Rate	DEATHS FROM							
					Smallpox	Measles	Scarlet Fever	Typhoid Fever	Typhus Fever	† Diarrhoea	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria
1910	96,523	32.7	14.5	121	1	15	22	10	0	51	16	7
1911	96,870	33.5	18.3	158	0	69	13	22	0	143	39	8
1912	98,159	32.0	15.5	124	0	62	19	8	0	49	46	19
1913	99,460	32.2	18.9	155	0	189	26	4	0	120	18	15
1914	100,775	33.3	17.1	138	0	25	5	4	0	98	24	8
1915†	92,240	32.1	19.3	129	0	126	12	6	0	78	40	32
1916†	90,000	26.5	16.8	108	0	2	30	2	0	64	34	85
1917†	90,600	22.0	16.5	123	0	65	20	2	0	37	19	79
1918†	90,600	24.1	21.2	126	0	26	24	0	0	48	24	100
1919†	100,805	25.5	15.0	117	0	5	9	2	0	35	7	25
1920	104,822	31.8	13.5	113	0	56	7	0	0	44	7	13
1921	104,900	29.1	12.6	103	0	7	5	0	0	62	24	5
1922	106,400	26.4	13.4	115	0	60	4	2	0	28	3	5
1923	107,100	24.4	11.9	91	0	0	4	1	0	24	10	8
1924	108,700	24.1	12.0	103	0	29	1	2	4	36	11	4
1925	109,600	23.9	12.0	100	0	17	7	3	0	35	33	6
1926	110,000	23.2	12.0	102	0	27	1	0	0	43	4	6
1927	113,100	20.8	11.4	88	0	60	2	0	0	26	5	7
1928	110,500	21.8	12.0	98	0	15	5	1	0	29	21	10
1929	109,200	20.7	14.6	114	0	49	6	1	0	23	13	11
1930	109,200	21.5	11.4	80	0	7	2	0	0	4	8	4
1931	108,300	20.1	12.5	88	0	30	0	0	0	21	0	7
1932	107,600	20.1	11.4	89	0	1	1	0	0	26	4	0
1933	107,600	18.0	14.0	116	0	12	2	3	0	18	52	8
1934	*108,240	19.1	10.6	65	0	10	2	1	0	19	1	18
1935	108,100	18.7	12.2	94	0	14	2	1	0	21	15	17
1936	108,000	18.3	12.1	56	0	7	4	0	0	13	3	26
1937	107,400	18.6	12.1	88	0	3	2	0	0	12	7	15
1938	107,200	18.2	11.4	70	0	9	3	0	0	16	6	14
1939	106,600	17.3	11.6	79	0	1	3	0	0	18	4	23
1940†	103,300	18.0	13.4	78	0	10	0	0	0	8	5	19
1941†	102,750	18.6	11.4	71	0	2	1	1	0	13	15	13
1942†	101,500	17.7	10.6	65	0	6	0	1	0	13	1	11
1943†	99,410	19.8	13.0	72	0	0	1	0	0	16	4	6
1944†	98,410	20.5	11.3	57	0	4	0	0	0	21	2	1
1945†	99,150	20.3	11.3	60	0	0	0	0	0	17	0	0
1946†	104,740	22.2	11.0	60	0	2	0	0	0	26	3	2
1947†	105,790	25.2	12.7	70	0	10	0	0	0	44	1	0
1948†	110,100	21.3	10.2	61	0	0	0	0	0	14	1	1
1949	112,100	17.9	10.7	41	0	0	0	0	0	10	2	1
1950	112,500	17.9	10.1	39	0	0	0	0	0	21	2	0
1951	109,400	16.9	13.3	38	0	1	0	0	0	14	0	0
1952	109,100	17.8	10.4	38	0	0	0	0	0	11	0	0
1953	108,200	17.5	10.6	44	0	1	0	0	0	9	1	0
1954	*111,700	17.0	10.9	41	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0
1955	111,900	16.0	11.0	33	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0
1956	110,900	16.8	10.7	27	0	0	0	0	0	9	0	0
1957	110,900	17.2	10.7	31	0	0	0	0	0	8	0	0
1958	110,600	16.9	11.4	36	0	2	0	0	0	8	0	0
1959	110,700	17.1	10.8	24	0	1	0	0	0	4	0	0

† Estimated civil population.
* Borough extended.
‡ Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea from 1950 inclusive.

POPULATION.—The Registrar General's estimate of population for mid-year 1959 was 110,700 compared with 110,600 for mid-year 1958. During the year the natural increase in population (i.e. excess of births over deaths) was 701.

BIRTHS.—The number of live births registered during 1959 as belonging to St. Helens was 1,893, giving a birth rate of 17.1 per 1,000 of the estimated population. This rate is slightly higher than for 1958 when 16.9 was recorded. The birth rate when adjusted by the area comparability factor of 0.94 gives a rate of 16.1 per 1,000 of the population. The birth rate for England and Wales during 1959 was 16.5.

Of the 1,893 births, 960 were males and 933 females, giving a sex ratio of 1,029 males to every 1,000 females.

DEATHS.—During 1959 there were 1,192 deaths from all causes (686 males and 506 females) giving a crude death rate of 10.8 per 1,000 of the population, as compared with 11.4 in 1958. The adjusted death rate for the year (for national comparison) after applying the area comparability factor of 1.32 was 14.3 per 1,000 of the population. The death rate for England and Wales as a whole for 1959 was 11.6 per 1,000 of the population.

Table V.S.4 shows that of these deaths, 212 were due to cancer and 553 to diseases of the heart and circulatory system. These two causes, therefore, accounted for 765 out of a total of 1,192 deaths, i.e. approximately 64%. There were 13 deaths from tuberculosis (all forms) during the year compared with 19 in the previous year.

The infantile mortality rate was 24.3 per 1,000 live births, compared with 35.8 in the previous year. The rate for England and Wales was 22.2 per 1,000 live births.

The maternal mortality rate for the year 1959 was 1.02 per 1,000 live and still births, compared with 0.32 for England and Wales.

Further reference to the infantile and maternal mortality death rates is made in the appropriate sections of this Report.

Causes of Death.—Figures relating to the causes of, and ages at, death are given in Table V.S.4.

Deaths from Tuberculosis.—Tuberculosis was the cause of 1.1% of all deaths that occurred during 1959. The corresponding percentage in 1958 was 1.5%. The ages at which these deaths occurred are shown in Table V.S.4. Further reference is made in the special section (VII) on Tuberculosis.

Malignant Diseases.—The deaths from these diseases during the past five years were as follows:—

Table V.S.2.

AGE GROUPS	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
Under 1 year	—	1	—	—	—
1—	—	—	1	1	—
5—	—	—	1	—	—
15—	—	2	—	—	—
25—	17	9	10	18	19
45—	88	99	75	78	99
65—	61	61	64	63	46
75 and over	47	40	33	63	48
Total	213	212	184	223	212
Percentage of the total deaths	17.2	17.9	15.6	17.7	17.8
Death rate per 1,000 of population.....	1.9	1.9	1.7	2.0	1.9

The following table V.S.3, gives particulars of deaths due to malignant causes during the last five years:

Table V.S.3.

Cause	1955		1956		1957		1958		1959	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Cancer—										
Stomach	34	16	26	11	24	13	22	21	18	11
Lung	31	8	53	5	34	5	50	3	47	7
Other	55	69	52	65	50	58	52	75	64	65
Totals	120	93	131	81	108	76	124	99	129	83
	213		212		184		223		212	

INFANTILE MORTALITY.—During 1959 there were 46 deaths of infants under one year of age (26 males and 20 females), corresponding to an infantile mortality rate of 24.3 per 1,000 live births. This compares with 67 deaths and a rate of 35.8 in 1958.

Careful supervision continued to be exercised during the year and investigations have been carried out in every instance where death has occurred in a child under one year of age. A summary of the findings following these investigations is given in the section of this Report dealing with Maternity and Child Welfare.

Table V.S.4.
Causes of, and ages at, death during 1959

Causes of Death	Sex	All Ages	0—1	1—	5—	At Ages 15—	25—	45—	65—	75—
Tuberculosis Resp.	M F	10 3	— —	— —	— —	— —	1 2	3 1	5 —	1 —
Tuberculosis Other	M F	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —
Syphilitic Disease	M F	2 1	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— 1	— —	2 —
Diphtheria	M F	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —
Whooping Cough	M F	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —
Meningococcal Infections	M F	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —
Acute Poliomyelitis	M F	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —
Measles	M F	— 1	— —	— 1	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	M F	6 —	1 —	— —	— —	— —	— —	4 —	— —	1 —
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	M F	18 11	— —	— —	— —	— —	1 —	10 4	5 3	2 4
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	M F	47 7	— —	— —	— —	— —	3 1	28 4	8 —	8 2
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	M F	— 16	— —	— —	— —	— —	— 3	— 6	— 2	— 5
Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	M F	— 12	— —	— —	— —	— —	— 4	— 8	— —	— —
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	M F	64 37	— —	— —	— —	— —	5 2	23 16	16 12	20 7
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	M F	1 3	— —	1 —	— —	— —	— 1	— 2	— —	— —
Diabetes	M F	2 3	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	1 1	1 —	— 2
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	M F	90 85	— —	— —	— —	— —	1 4	19 12	34 19	36 50
Coronary Disease, Angina	M F	124 62	— —	— —	— —	— —	4 1	52 16	38 26	30 19
Hypertension with Heart Disease	M F	7 18	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	2 4	4 4	1 10
Other Heart Disease	M F	48 81	— —	— —	— —	— —	— 6	17 11	15 18	16 46
Other Circulatory Disease	M F	19 19	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	5 4	5 3	9 12
Influenza	M F	17 13	— —	— —	1 2	— —	1 1	1 —	8 4	6 6
Pneumonia	M F	26 21	2 2	2 —	— —	— 1	— —	8 7	6 4	8 7
Bronchitis	M F	86 21	— —	— —	1 —	— —	2 1	34 6	26 8	23 6
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	M F	11 2	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	5 1	5 1	1 —
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	M F	4 1	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	2 —	2 1	— —
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	M F	3 1	1 —	— —	— —	— —	1 —	— —	— —	1 1
Nephritis and Nephrosis	M F	5 4	— —	— —	— —	2 —	— —	2 1	— 1	1 2

Table V.S.4.—continued.

Causes of Death	Sex	All Ages	0—1	1—	At Ages		25—	45—	65—	75—
					5—	15—				
Hyperplasia of Prostate	M	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	2	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
Congenital Malformations	M	9	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	5	4	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases	M	45	13	—	2	—	3	8	5	14
	F	57	13	—	—	—	7	8	15	14
Motor Vehicle Accidents	M	9	—	1	1	4	1	2	—	—
	F	5	—	—	—	1	—	2	2	—
All Other Accidents	M	19	—	—	2	4	5	3	4	1
	F	11	1	1	—	—	—	1	3	5
Suicide	M	8	—	—	—	—	4	3	1	—
	F	4	—	—	—	—	1	3	—	—
Homicide and Operations of War	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS: All Causes	M	686	26	4	7	10	32	232	188	187
	F	506	20	2	2	2	36	119	127	198
GRAND TOTALS		1192	46	6	9	12	68	351	315	385

II.—METEOROLOGY

Rainfall.—The total rainfall for 1959 as measured at the Victoria Park Observatory was 28.77 inches compared with 36.65 inches in 1958. At the Ecclestone Hill Waterworks 30.13 inches were recorded compared with 40.90 inches in the previous year.

The highest day's rainfall of the year—1.28 inches—occurred during the 24-hour period ending at 9 a.m. on May 12th. The average daily rainfall for May, June, July and August was 0.07 inches compared with 0.13 inches for the corresponding period in 1958. The wettest month was December with 5.43 inches. The driest month was September with 0.30 inches.

Sunshine.—On two occasions during the year the glass sphere of the sunshine recording instrument at Victoria Park was stolen; as a result it was not possible to take sunshine recordings for a period of 44 days. During the rest of the year, 1,198 hours of sunshine were recorded compared with 903½ hours in 1958. The average daily sunshine during May, June, July and August exceeded 6 hours—on 28 days during these months more than 10 hours of sunshine was recorded. The highest reading was 13¾ hours on June 2nd.

Temperature.—Temperatures of 75°F. and over were recorded on 29 days during the summer—on 11 of these days the maximum shade temperature exceeded 80° F. The lowest temperature recorded was 17° F. on January 11th.

Wind Pressure.—On 24 days during the year, a wind force of 20 m.p.h. and over was recorded. Strong winds of 30 m.p.h. on April 6th and 8th December and of 34 m.p.h. on 7th December were also recorded.

The following Table M.1., shows the maximum and minimum temperatures recorded in each month and the distribution of sunshine and rainfall throughout the year.

Table M.1.

Month	Maximum temperature recorded in shade	Minimum temperature recorded in shade	Sunshine	No. of sunless days	Rainfall	No. of days on which rain fell
	°F	°F	Hours		Inches	
January	51.0	17.0	33½	17	2.69	17
February	62.2	26.5	31¾	13	0.27	6
March	64.0	30.0	64	9	1.19	18
April	65.0	32.5	111	1	2.47	19
May	76.5	34.2	204	1	2.16	9
June	81.1	44.5	219	3	2.53	18
July	85.7	45.0	188	—	2.72	19
August	86.8	39.8	174	2	0.96	8
September	82.1	37.0	41	—	0.30	2
October	78.8	29.0	109¾	2	3.02	17
November	61.2	28.0	5	8	5.03	26
December	53.8	30.9	17	22	5.43	30
			1198	78	28.77	189

Sunshine Recorder out of action August 30th to September 23rd (25 days) and November 1st to 19th (19 days).

III.—INFECTIOUS DISEASES

1959 was the eighth successive year in which no case of diphtheria occurred in St. Helens.

2 cases of paralytic poliomyelitis were notified during the year. This compares with one case in 1958 and 17 cases in 1957. The first of these cases occurred in June in a four year old boy who had not been vaccinated against poliomyelitis. This child recovered from the acute stage of the illness but was left with a residual paralysis of both lower limbs for which he was still having orthopaedic treatment at the end of the year. The second case, a girl aged three years, was notified in October. This child had received her initial injections against poliomyelitis some time previously. She did not suffer from the condition in a very acute form, complaining mainly of weakness in her right foot. She was admitted to hospital, where she made an uneventful recovery, being discharged home some ten days after her admission. There was no residual paralysis in this case. The remarkable recovery made by this child is worthy of comment in view of the fact that she had been given some protection against poliomyelitis by her initial two injections.

It is satisfactory to report that only 3 cases of food poisoning were notified during the year. These cases took the form of a family outbreak of *Salmonella Typhi-murium* which occurred in July. The family visited a nearby seaside town where they consumed "hot dogs" on the fairground. The father, mother and one child complained of symptoms, but the other children, who did not partake of this foodstuff, were not affected. The duration of illness was 3-4 days and the symptoms were moderately severe.

In addition to these cases of food poisoning, 2 cases of Paratyphoid B fever were notified in 1959. The initial case was severely ill and required prolonged hospital treatment. This man worked in the local sewage works, where he was responsible for cleaning the sludge pump. Swabs taken from this pump grew Paratyphoid B, Phage type 1 (variety 6) organisms. Similar bacteria were isolated from the faeces of the case in question and also from the man's wife, who became infected some time later. Both cases made a complete recovery, though they continued to carry the organisms in their faeces for several months. Following this outbreak, discussions were held with the Manager of the Sewage Works and Health Department Officials visited the Sewage Works to give advice on hygiene and the prevention of enteric infection amongst the workers. There was no further difficulty in this matter.

As can be seen from Table I.D.1, the only common infectious disease to reach epidemic proportions in the County Borough during the year was measles. Some 2,206 cases of this condition were notified between the end of January and the beginning of August. The peak of the epidemic was reached in March during which 600 cases were notified. The nuisance value of this outbreak, particularly in infant schools, was considerable. Fortunately the disease proved to be fairly mild and the majority of the cases did not require hospital treatment. There was one death from measles (complicated, with pneumonia) during this epidemic. It is perhaps of interest to point out that since 1955 there has been a high incidence of measles every second year with a comparatively low incidence in the intervening year. If this pattern continues, 1960 should be an uneventful year in so far as measles is concerned.

The incidence of the other main infectious diseases were very low during the year and little comment is required except to underline the comparatively low incidence of whooping cough and dysentery in the child population.

Table I.D.1.

Notification of Infectious Diseases received during the undermentioned years.

	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	121	130	327	92	116	658	286	208	170	141
Diphtheria	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	300	2613	1022	1600	830	1083	295	2331	289	2206
Whooping Cough	407	552	616	613	95	484	286	284	27	77
Enteric Fever	—	6	—	1	3	—	—	5	—	—
Dysentery	58	16	18	4	133	198	67	35	377	17
Erysipelas	18	14	19	10	7	15	9	8	7	8
Pneumonia*	25	91	58	36	30	35	27	42	15	20
Typhus Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	3	4	1	1	4	1	3	3	2
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	—	—	3	1	1	—	1	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis.....	8	6	4	—	6	5	—	17	1	2
Acute Encephalitis	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infections	4	6	5	9	4	1	8	11	3	2
Malaria	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—

* Acute Primary and Influenzal

Table I.D.2.

Infectious Diseases.—Total number of cases notified, number of cases admitted to isolation hospital, and the total deaths from each disease as shown in Registrar General’s classification of deaths.

Year 1959

DISEASE	Notifications received	Cases admitted to hospital	Total Deaths
Smallpox	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	141	60	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Measles	2206	27	1
Whooping Cough	77	9	—
Enteric Fever	—	—	—
Dysentery	17	3	—
Erysipelas	8	2	—
Pneumonia, Acute Primary and Influenzal	20	3	—
Typhus Fever	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	1	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	2	2	—
Acute Encephalitis	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infections	2	2	—
Malaria	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	3	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever	2	2	—

Table I.D.3.

Age distribution of cases of Infectious Diseases notified.
Year 1959

DISEASE	Notifications received	Under 1	1—	2—	3—	4—	5—	10—	15—	20—	35—	45—	65—
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	141	2	3	11	22	21	68	13	—	—	1	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	2206	86	223	283	329	382	872	25	3	3	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	77	4	11	14	13	10	24	1	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	17	1	1	2	1	2	4	—	1	3	—	2	—
Erysipelas	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	3	3
Pneumonia*	20	—	—	—	1	—	2	2	1	1	2	6	5
Typhus Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	2	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Encephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infections	2	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Malaria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	3	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever.....	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—

*Acute Primary and Influenzal

Disinfection and Disinfestation.—By arrangement with the Liverpool Regional Hospital Board the use of facilities for disinfection of personal articles of patients is retained at the St. Helens Peasley Cross Isolation Hospital. Facilities are also retained at this Hospital in the Cleansing Block for the treatment of scabies and the cleansing of verminous persons. During 1959, 12 cases of scabies were treated, and 29 infested persons were cleansed under these arrangements. The corresponding figures for 1958 were 6 cases of scabies and 11 infested persons.

Laboratory Work.—The following Table, I.D.4., shows the number of specimens received by the Health Department for distribution to various laboratories during the year.

Table I.D.4.

Specimens	Number Received	Results	
		Positive	Negative
Swabs for Diphtheria	19	—	19
Blood for Rh Factor	444	298	146
Gastro-Enteritis, Dysentery, and Food Poisoning	305	29	276
Total	768	327	441

IV.—IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION

Diphtheria Immunisation.—In 1959 the Local Authority’s Scheme for Diphtheria Immunisation of the child population was continued as previously. Table I.V.1, below, indicates the number of children in different age groups who received primary immunisation and reinforcing injections in 1959.

Table I.V.1.

Number of children immunised against Diphtheria during 1959.

	Under 1 year	1-4 years	5-14 years	15 years or over	Total
Primary Immunisations					
Local Authority Medical Officers	597	342	456	1	1396
Private Practitioners	351	119	13	—	483
Total	948	461	469	1	1879
Reinforcing Injections					
Local Authority Medical Officers	—	222	701	—	923
Private Practitioners	—	17	13	—	30
Total	—	239	714	—	953

The following shows the record of primary immunisations carried out since 1954.

1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
1994	1476	1216	1433	1530	1879

1,879 children received their primary immunisation against diphtheria during 1959. This represents the largest number of primary immunisations carried out in any one year since 1954. In addition, 953 children were given a “booster” dose.

The steady increase in the number of children being immunised in recent years is gratifying, particularly in view of the apathy generally shown by parents towards this form of immunisation.

Unfortunately, this more satisfactory trend has not as yet affected the immunity index for the child population as a whole, which stands at 42.44%. Every effort must be made during the coming years to improve this figure. The more extensive use of combined antigens should interest parents as it means a reduction in the total number of injections given to any one child. However, the hard fact remains that the absence of diphtheria from the child population for more than eight years has tended to make people complacent. It is to be hoped that the return of this dreadful disease will not be required in order to make them change their views.

Table I.V.2.

Diphtheria Immunisation in relation to child population.

Number of Children at 31st December, 1959, who had completed a course of Immunisation *at any time before that date* (i.e. at any time since 1st January, 1945).

Age at 31/12/59 i.e. Born in Year	Under 1 1959	1-4 1958-1955	5-9 1954-1950	10-14 1949-1945	Under 15 Total
Last complete course of injections (whether primary or booster)					
(A) 1955-1959	359	3,786	5,489	1,784	11,418
(B) 1945-1954	—	—	1,384	6,913	8,297
(C) Estimated mid-year child population	1,850	6,950	18,100		26,900
*Immunity Index	19.4%	54.47%	40%		42.44%

*The Immunity index refers only to children who have had either a primary or re-inforcing injection during the last five years.

The following Table, I.V.3., shows the number of children immunised against Whooping Cough under this scheme during the year.

Table I.V.3.

Number of children immunised against Whooping Cough during 1959.

	under 1 yr.	1 yr.	2 yrs.	3 yrs.	4 yrs.	5 yrs.	over 5 yrs	Total
(1) Primary Immunisation								
(a) <i>Whooping Cough Antigen only</i>								
Local Authority Medical Officers	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Private Practitioners	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	2
Total 1 (a)	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	2
(b) <i>Combined with Diphtheria Antigen</i>								
Local Authority Medical Officers	594	135	41	29	40	57	14	910
Private Practitioners	351	80	19	16	3	2	9	480
Total 1 (b)	945	215	60	45	43	59	23	1390
Grand Total 1 (a) & (b)	946	215	61	45	43	59	23	1392
(2) Reinforcing Injections								
(a) <i>Whooping Cough Antigen only</i>								
Local Authority Medical Officers	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Private Practitioners	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total 2 (a)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(b) <i>Combined with Diphtheria Antigen</i>								
Local Authority Medical Officers	—	2	—	23	180	345	85	635
Private Practitioners	—	2	5	2	8	11	2	30
Total 2 (b)	—	4	5	25	188	356	87	665
Grand Total 2 (a) & (b)	—	4	5	25	188	356	87	665

Vaccination against Smallpox.—The following Table, I.V.4., is a record of the vaccinations carried out during 1959.

Table I.V.4.
Number of Vaccinations against Smallpox during 1959

	Under 1 year	1 year	2-4 years	5-14 years	15 years and over	Total
Vaccinations						
Local Authority Medical Officers	545	7	11	11	3	577
Private Practitioners	454	24	14	24	35	551
Total	999	31	25	35	38	1128
Re-Vaccinations						
Local Authority Medical Officers	—	—	—	1	8	9
Private Practitioners	—	1	7	17	152	177
Total	—	1	7	18	160	186

VACCINATION AGAINST POLIOMYELITIS

During 1959, 10,738 people received their initial two injections against poliomyelitis and a further 12,976 were given their important third injection. In addition, 386 persons had received one injection and were awaiting their second at the end of the year. This, in effect, means that some 34,838 anti-poliomyelitis injections were given during 1959. Full particulars of the numbers vaccinated, shown in accordance with their years of birth, are given in Table I.V.5.

The satisfactory position with regard to the 6 months to 15 years age-group noted at the end of 1958 was consolidated and indeed improved in 1959. An estimate of the situation carried out towards the end of the year showed that 72% of the population under 15 years of age had been protected by vaccination. As there continues to be a steady flow of consents for this age-group, there is every reason to believe that this figure will continue to improve. In view of the fact that the incidence of poliomyelitis is highest in the younger age-groups, this is most gratifying. Indeed there is much to suggest that epidemic poliomyelitis may well be controlled by maintaining a high level of vaccination in the child population.

Unfortunately, the same success has not been achieved with the 15–26 years age-group. During the year, extensive use was made of posters, leaflets, recordings and other means of propaganda in an attempt to improve the consent rate amongst the adolescents and young adults. In addition, lunch-time sessions were held at Cloughton Street Clinic. The results obtained from these efforts have been disappointing. The measure of success already achieved in this age-group has been due mainly to the work of the vaccinating teams of doctor, nurse and clerk, which in the course of the year visited all the large factories and work-shops in the town. The policy of “vaccinating beside the work-bench” continues to hold out the best prospect of success with these young people, whose spare time is “too precious to waste” in visiting clinics. Despite the many difficulties mentioned, approximately 40% of the estimated population in the 15–26 years age-group had been vaccinated by the end of 1959.

There were no problems in so far as the supply of vaccine was concerned, and virtually all the vaccine used was British. The absence of untoward reactions of any kind following the use of this vaccine is worthy of comment.

TABLE I.V.5.

**PARTICULARS OF POLIOMYELITIS VACCINATIONS
CARRIED OUT DURING 1959**

Date of Birth	No. of persons who completed two injections		Total	No. of persons who received the third injection		Total
	Local Authority Medical Officers	General Practitioners		Local Authority Medical Officers	General Practitioners	
1933	321	15	336	21	2	23
1934	388	34	422	19	3	22
1935	434	32	466	35	4	39
1936	443	30	473	26	2	28
1937	436	36	472	19	2	21
1938	497	34	531	20	5	25
1939	512	31	543	30	6	36
1940	551	31	582	48	8	56
1941	625	29	654	62	3	65
1942	629	23	652	120	2	122
1943	248	28	276	615	13	628
1944	128	20	148	917	10	927
1945	115	15	130	959	9	968
1946	230	21	251	734	12	746
1947	186	19	205	979	17	996
1948	178	26	204	1,215	21	1,236
1949	156	16	172	1,046	16	1,062
1950	141	13	154	1,062	19	1,081
1951	163	13	176	864	26	890
1952	235	33	268	800	26	826
1953	309	34	343	647	25	672
1954	274	28	302	537	34	571
1955	289	26	315	600	27	627
1956	289	33	322	573	33	606
1957	442	46	488	485	22	507
1958	635	98	733	52	13	65
1959	62	10	72	—	—	—
	8,916	774	9,690	12,485	360	12,845
Special Categories:						
(a) Ante-natal cases	591	23	614	5	—	5
(b) Others, e.g. Hospital staff, etc.	359	75	434	19	107	126
Total	9,866	872	10,738	12,509	467	12,976

In addition, 386 persons had received one injection and were awaiting the second injection at the end of the year.

V.—AMBULANCE SERVICE

Table A.S.1 gives the details of the work carried out by the Ambulance Service in St. Helens during 1959.

Table A.S.1.
CALLS ATTENDED BY AMBULANCE SERVICE DURING 1959.

Month	Accidents		Emergency		General Service Removals					Total
	Street	Works	Home	Sudden Illness	Maternity	Hospital Admissions	Hospital Discharges	Hospital Transfers	Hospital Out-patients	
January	43	23	26	42	87	262	185	38	2228	2934
February	41	21	26	39	74	226	130	34	2249	2840
March	50	24	39	51	89	282	159	40	2110	2844
April	50	15	32	48	87	249	121	34	2048	2684
May	72	23	33	32	68	254	131	27	2070	2710
June	55	22	25	32	101	234	133	42	2175	2819
July	53	18	31	34	80	241	141	51	2050	2699
August	71	13	34	36	82	215	118	42	1892	2503
September	73	20	27	27	88	202	104	16	2034	2591
October	56	24	36	39	80	213	119	39	2205	2811
November	60	18	25	23	79	221	136	24	2312	2898
December	85	23	30	37	79	224	158	28	2140	2804
TOTAL	709	244	364	440	994	2823	1635	415	25513	33137

Table A.S.2.
AMBULANCE SERVICE MILEAGES DURING 1959.

Month	STRETCHER AMBULANCES								DUAL PURPOSE		Total
	ADJ 532	BDJ 828	BDJ 97	CDJ 233	CDJ 234	DDJ 274	EDJ 411	GDJ 111	DDJ 928	HDJ 119	
January	440	936	504	682	902	1093	541	861	1446	2620	10025
February	371	676	471	968	881	526	658	766	2101	1995	9413
March	421	872	281	860	860	684	917	999	1988	1789	9671
April	479	645	280	875	266	1114	881	583	2282	2178	9583
May	394	823	298	889	598	661	810	768	1717	2427	9385
June	455	150	261	1003	1116	790	1319	811	1994	2505	10404
July	358	1082	268	626	874	896	1080	441	1848	2751	10224
August	401	527	241	835	846	845	787	700	1958	2185	9325
September	445	991	297	745	910	1130	1022	903	2374	1696	10513
October	346	516	217	936	715	1014	758	1100	1714	2767	10083
November	379	965	442	—	710	821	847	769	1404	2378	8715
December	414	995	217	1096	769	820	1012	792	601	2375	9091
TOTAL	4903	9178	3777	9515	9447	10394	10632	9493	21427	27666	116432

Vehicles.

The following vehicles were in commission at the end of the year:—

Austin, ADJ 532 (year 1949).

Morris, BDJ 97 (year 1950).

Austin, BDJ 828 (year 1951).

Austin, CDJ 233 (year 1952).

Austin, CDJ 234 (year 1952).

Austin, DDJ274 (year 1953).

Austin, EDJ 411 (year 1955).

Austin, GDJ 111 (year 1956).

Bedford, DDJ 928 (year 1954)
(Dual-purpose).

Austin, HDJ 119 (year 1957) (Dual purpose)

Austin, ADJ 437 (year 1936)	} Retained for Civil Defence purposes.
Austin, DJ 9102 (year 1943)	

The Ambulance Service provided an efficient service throughout the year and there was an increase in both calls attended and mileages during the year. The number of cases dealt with was 33,137 compared with 30, 901 in 1958, and the total ambulance service mileage was 116,432 compared with 112,600 in 1958. This increase in work was dealt with quite smoothly despite the disadvantages in the operation of the service due to inadequate Control Headquarters and the acute shortage of satisfactory ambulance garages.

VI.—MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE

The responsibilities of the Local Health Authority under the National Health Service Act, 1946, for community care in relation to Mental Health include the following:

- (1) The investigation of cases of mental ill-health and, where necessary, the initial care and removal of such cases to hospitals under the Regional Hospital Board in accordance with the Lunacy and Mental Treatment Acts.
- (2) The ascertainment of cases of mental deficiency; the supervision, guardianship and occupational training of such cases and, where necessary, their removal to hospitals in accordance with the Mental Deficiency Acts; and special provisions relating to short-term care of mental defectives under the National Health Service Act.
- (3) Prevention, care and after-care measures in the community in the Mental Health field.

During the year a scheme was approved by the Health Committee for the training of two student trainees per annum, with the ultimate aim of building up a staff for the new Junior Instruction Centre. The scheme involved the initial practical training of the students at the present Centre, followed by their enrolment as students for the Manchester Course for the Diploma for Teachers of the Mentally Handicapped, which is run annually by the National Association for Mental Health. The first two students commenced duty in October 1959, and their enrolment forwarded to the National Association for Mental Health to commence the theoretical course in September 1960.

Administration. The powers and functions of the Local Health Authority under the Lunacy and Mental Treatment Acts, 1890-1930, and the Mental Deficiency Acts, 1913-1938, are carried out by the Local Health Committee, which has appointed a Mental Health Sub-Committee.

This Sub-Committee consists of the Chairman and Deputy-Chairman of the Health Committee, together with eight other members of the Health Committee. During the year Dr. B. Finkleman, Medical Superintendent, Rainhill Hospital, was co-opted to this Sub-Committee. All powers and duties of the Local Health Authority, so far as they relate to Mental Health and Mental Deficiency, may be referred to this Sub-Committee for report to the Health Committee. It was found convenient, however, during the year to take all matters affecting the Mental Health Service direct to the Health Committee.

Mental Health Staff.—The Medical Officer of Health is responsible for the organization and control of the local services, with the day-to-day administration of the Mental Health Department being supervised by an Assistant Medical Officer of Health. Use is also made of the Consultant Psychiatrist at present on the staff of the Local Education Authority and, where necessary, of specialist Medical Officers of the Regional Hospital Board.

The non-medical staff consists of three Mental Health Workers (one male, two females) and one Sectional Clerk (male). Two of the Mental Health Workers have attended approved courses of training and during 1959 the third

attended a University Extension Course run by the department of Extra-Mural Studies of the University of Liverpool. The Mental Health Workers only are designated as Duly Authorised Officers.

The staff of the Occupation Centre for mental defectives consists of a Supervisor, two Assistant Supervisors and two Guide and General Helpers (all female).

For the purposes of Section 5 of the Mental Deficiency Act, 1913, the following have been appointed approved Medical Officers:—

Dr. Gerald O'Brien, Medical Officer of Health, St. Helens.

Dr. James H. Walsh, Deputy Medical Officer of Health, St. Helens.

Dr. M. Joyce Caldwell, Psychiatrist, Child Guidance Clinic, St. Helens Education Authority.

Co-ordination with Regional Hospital Boards. There are frequent consultations with the Board's Consultant Psychiatrists, and growing use is made of the domiciliary visiting service whereby the Psychiatrists are called in and are able to visit patients in their own homes. In addition, one or other of the Mental Health Workers make frequent visits to the local hospital psychiatric out-patient sessions.

The Local Health Authority is also undertaking, on request, the supervision of patients on trial or on licence from Mental Hospitals and Hospitals for Mental Defectives.

The number of visits paid, the number of cases involved and the number of reports submitted during 1959 were as follows:—

	<i>No. of Cases</i>	<i>No. of Visits Paid</i>	<i>No. of Reports Submitted</i>
Mental Illness			
Reports on home conditions for licence on trial or discharge	—	—	—
Mental Deficiency			
Progress Reports.....	—	—	—
Reports on home conditions for licence on trial or discharge	27	30	27
Reports on home conditions for the purpose of Section 11 of the Mental Deficiency Act, 1913.....	21	26	21

Duties Delegated to Voluntary Associations. No duties of the Local Health Authority have been delegated to voluntary organisations. The St. Helens Mental Welfare Society, however, assists in welfare activities among mental defectives, in connection with the provision of clothing and footwear, day outings, holidays, Christmas parties, etc. The Local Health Authority continued its grant to the funds of the Society for this work. The Women's Voluntary Services also assist in the provision of clothing and footwear.

ACCOUNT OF WORK UNDERTAKEN IN THE COMMUNITY UNDER SECTION 28, NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE ACT, 1946

Prevention. In dealing with the problem of prevention of mental illness the activities of the Mental Health Workers were focussed mainly on domiciliary visiting and arranging contacts with suitable organisations for those in need of advice or early treatment.

Close co-operation has been maintained by the Mental Health Service with practitioners and Consultant Psychiatrists of the local mental hospital. During the year 51 attendances were made by the Mental Health Workers of the Local Authority at the local Hospital Psychiatric Out-Patient Clinic.

In addition, a valuable link is provided by frequent case consultations between the Health Visitors of the various districts in the town and the Mental Health Workers.

The importance of preventive Mental Health Services is becoming more generally realised, with the emphasis gradually shifting to the principle of early diagnosis and treatment. Following requests from Consultant Psychiatrists, general practitioners, parents and relatives, and from patients themselves, the Mental Health Workers paid 192 visits during the year in dealing with the following cases:—

- 39 cases with domestic difficulties who were visited and improvement brought about in the home circumstances. In some of these cases material assistance was obtained from various voluntary organisations.
- 22 cases of which 12 were admitted to Geriatric and Senile Dementia units.
- 20 cases were persuaded to undergo out-patient treatment
- 32 cases were receiving supervisory visits.
- 6 cases were admitted to voluntary homes.
- 2 cases were admitted to a general hospital.
- 1 case was admitted to a convalescent home.
- 6 cases were assisted in the provision of clothing and bedding.
- 8 cases were admitted to hostels and other accommodation.
- 1 case was admitted for special hospital care.
- 5 cases were assisted in obtaining employment.
- 2 cases in respect of which social histories were completed.

Care. In this sphere of activity it was found that the majority of the problems dealt with arise in family life as a result of the admission of a member of the family to hospital. Advice and assistance were sought from the Mental Health Department on many occasions by relatives and not infrequently by request of the patients themselves. In many instances at the request of Consultant Hospital Psychiatrists in the area home visits were paid to relatives of in-patients and social histories completed.

During the year 212 visits were made in dealing with the undermentioned cases:—

- 40 cases of patients in hospitals whose home difficulties were to some extent detrimental to their recovery. Instances of these were National Assistance grants, housing difficulties, property worries, National Insurance and Pension problems and visiting arrangements.
- 3 cases in respect of which social histories were completed.
- 6 cases in which special interviews were arranged for the relatives of patients at out-patient clinics.
- 1 case where a child was involved was referred to the Children's Department and/or the N.S.P.C.C.
- 11 cases were dealt with in connection with the protection of property
- 1 case was assisted for employment on discharge.

After-Care. The following summary gives the Local Health Authority's after-care record during 1959:—

Number on list at 1/1/1959	234
Discharged persons requesting after-care	62
	<hr/>
	296
Deleted from list during 1959	122
	<hr/>
Number on list at 31/12/1959	174
	<hr/>

After-care continues to provide a constant sphere of activity and great use is made of psychiatric surveillance at the local hospital out-patient clinics. The Mental Health Service continues to be an integral part of the whole process for rehabilitation of discharged patients and close liaison is maintained with the disablement resettlement service of the Ministry of Labour, Welfare Officers of local firms, voluntary organisations, etc.

In dealing with the following cases during the year, 238 home visits were made by the Mental Health Workers:—

- 42 cases requiring further treatment were re-admitted to hospitals.
- 76 cases completely recovered, needing no further after-care service.
- 23 cases were assisted with lodgings and hostel accommodation.
- 15 cases were assisted in connection with employment.
- 50 cases receiving supervisory visits, in which domestic and other problems were dealt with.
- 10 cases were assisted in the provision of food and clothing.
- 44 cases were referred for out-patient treatment.
- 3 cases were admitted to Geriatric Units.
- 2 cases were admitted to Voluntary Nursing Homes.

In closing, it would be pointed out that the number of people seeking the aid of the prevention, care and after-care services is increasing yearly. This burden is eased by the fact that a happy relationship exists between the local medical practitioners, the local mental hospitals, the consultant psychiatrists and the mental health workers. During the year under review a total of 1,006 interviews were conducted in this connection.

THE LUNACY AND MENTAL TREATMENT ACTS, 1890-1930.

The following is a summary of the work undertaken by Duly Authorised Officers under the above Acts, from 1st January, 1959 to 31st December, 1959:

1. Admitted to an Establishment designated for the purpose by the Minister of Health:	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
(a) On Three Day Orders under Section 20 of the Lunacy Act, 1890	31	25	56
(b) On Justices' Fourteen Day Orders under Section 21 of the Lunacy Act, 1890	20	23	43
2. Summary Reception Orders made under Section 16 of the Lunacy Act, 1890:			
(a) Following detention on an Order under Section 20 or 21 of the Lunacy Act, 1890.....	27	20	47
(b) Admitted direct to a mental hospital on a Summary Reception Order	—	2	2
3. Notified as an alleged person of unsound mind suffering from mental illness and dealt with as follows:			
(a) Voluntary Patients	31	18	49
(b) Temporary Patients	—	—	—
(c) Informal Admissions	2	—	2
(d) No Order made	12	9	21
4. Other notified admissions during the year:—			
Persons normally resident within the County Borough of St. Helens, admitted to Mental Hospitals under the Lunacy and Mental Treatment Acts, 1890-1930	68	88	156
5. Patients transferred between Mental Hospitals under Section 64-67 of the Lunacy Act, 1890	1	—	1

The above figures cannot be taken as representing the true incidence of mental illness in the community since many early cases do not exhibit major symptoms requiring hospital treatment and probably are dealt with very successfully by general medical practitioners and by Consultant Psychiatrists at Out-Patient Hospital Clinics. Such cases may not come under the review of the Mental Health Service.

Following the introduction on 6/10/1959 of "Informal" provisions, the Local Health Authority were notified that 3 of the patients admitted to mental hospitals were regraded to informal class.

In addition, a number of cases (not St. Helens residents) are dealt with by virtue of the fact that they have been overtaken by mental illness while in the County Borough of St. Helens. 10 of these cases were dealt with during the year (5 males and 5 females).

The following summary gives the disposal of known St. Helens patients in Mental Hospitals during the year:—

No. of Health Service Patients in Mental Hospitals on 1/1/1959	Male	Female	Total
.....	172	188	360
Admissions during the year	Male	Female	Total
.....	175	170	345
	347	358	705
	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>Total</i>
Deaths during the year	11	6	17
Discharges during the year	162	162	324
	173	168	341

No. of Health Service Patients in Mental Hospitals on 31/12/1959	Male	Female	Total
.....	174	190	364

The number of patients in hospitals at the end of the year is at the rate of 3.3 per 1,000 of the population.

THE MENTAL DEFICIENCY ACTS, 1913-1938

Ascertainment. The total number of cases reported and referred as Mental Defectives from the 1st January, 1959 to 31st December, 1959 was 10. Particulars of these cases are shown in the following Tables.

Table M.H.1.
Cases Reported and Referred

	Under 16 years		16 years and over		Total
	M.	F.	M.	F.	
(a) Cases ascertained during 1959 as defectives "subject to be dealt with". Action taken on reports from:—					
(i) Local Education Authorities on children—					
1. Whilst at school or liable to attend school	5	2	—	—	7
2. On leaving special schools	—	—	—	—	—
3. On leaving ordinary schools	—	—	—	—	—
(ii) Police or Courts	—	—	—	—	—
(iii) Other sources	—	1	1	1	3
(b) Cases reported but not regarded at 31st December as defectives "subject to be dealt with"	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Cases reported but not confirmed as defectives by 31st December and thus excluded from (a) and (b)	—	—	—	—	—
Total number of cases reported in 1959	5	3	1	1	10

Table M.H.2.
Disposal of Cases

	Under 16 years		16 years and over		Total
	M.	F.	M.	F.	
(a) Those found "subject to be dealt with".					
(i) Placed under Statutory Supervision	5	3	1	—	9
(ii) Placed under Guardianship	—	—	—	—	—
(iii) Taken to "Places of Safety"	—	—	—	—	—
(iv) Admitted to Hospitals	—	—	—	1	1
(b) Those not at present "subject to be dealt with".					
(i) Placed under Voluntary Supervision	—	—	—	—	—
(ii) Action unnecessary	—	—	—	—	—
	5	3	1	1	10

Admissions to Hospitals.—During 1959 the total number of defectives admitted by Order to Hospitals was 13 (6 males and 7 females). The admissions were as follows:

	Under 16 years		16 Years and over		Total
	M.	F.	M.	F.	
A. INFORMAL					
1. Direct from Home					
(i) To Designated Hospitals	1	1	2	2	6
(ii) To Non-Designated Hospitals	1	1	—	—	2
2. From Care Provided in Accordance with Circular 5/52					
(i) Whilst in N.H.S. Hospitals	—	—	—	2	2
(ii) Whilst in other accommodation	1	—	—	1	2
B. FROM THE COURTS					
1. Under Section 8(i)(b) of the Mental Deficiency Act, 1913.....	—	—	1	—	1
	3	2	3	5	13

As at 31st December it will be noted from the following Table M.H.3. that 14 cases (10 males and 4 females) still awaited vacancies in hospitals. Particular difficulty is experienced in obtaining vacancies on the male side.

Table M.H.3.

	Under 16 years		16 years and over		Total
	M.	F.	M.	F.	
1. In urgent need of hospital care					
(i) Cot and chair cases	—	—	—	—	—
(ii) Ambulant low grade cases	3	1	—	1	5
(iii) Medium grade cases	1	—	—	—	1
(iv) High grade cases	—	—	—	—	—
2. Not in urgent need of hospital care					
(i) Cot and chair cases	1	1	—	—	2
(ii) Ambulant low grade cases	3	—	—	—	3
(iii) Medium grade cases	—	—	—	1	1
(iv) High grade cases	—	—	2	—	2
	8	2	2	2	14

None of the above cases is considered to be in need of hospital care solely because of poor environment.

Cases in Mental Deficiency Hospitals.—The number of cases from the County Borough of St. Helens who were in Mental Deficiency Hospitals and non-designated hospitals at 31st December 1959 is given in the following table:

Table M.H.4.

	Under 16 years		16 Years and over		Total
	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Mental Deficiency Hospital—					
Ashton House	—	—	—	2	2
Birkenhead	—	—	1	1	2
Brockhall	4	—	23	14	41
Calderstones	—	1	18	12	31
Chorley (Eaves Lane)	—	—	—	1	1
Cranage Hall	—	—	1	2	3
Greaves Hall	1	1	3	4	9
Lisieux Hall	—	—	4	—	4
Mary Dendy Home	—	—	2	1	3
Newchurch Hospital	—	2	—	5	7
Olive Mount	1	—	—	—	1
Rampton State	—	—	—	3	3
Royal Albert	2	—	5	1	8
Swinton	—	1	1	—	2
St. Joseph's	—	1	—	—	1
St. Raphael's	1	—	—	—	1
Rathbone	1	—	—	—	1
The Manor	—	—	—	1	1
Thingwall Hall	—	—	4	—	4
Whitecross	1	—	—	—	1
	11	6	62	47	126

Following Ministry of Health Circulars to Hospital Management Committees and the introduction of Section 5 of the Mental Health Act, 1959, the following Table shows the number of persons who were reclassified during 1959 to informal status in Mental Deficiency Hospitals:

						Under 16 years		16 years and over		Total
						M.	F.	M.	F.	
Mental Deficiency Hospital										
Birkenhead	—	—	1	1	2
Brockhall	—	—	5	2	7
Calderstones	—	—	2	2	4
Mary Dendy	—	—	1	—	1
Royal Albert	—	—	2	—	2
Thingwall Hall	—	—	1	—	1
						—	—	12	5	17

Of those reclassified in the above Table, 15 (11 males, 4 females) were detained in accordance with Section 6 of the Mental Deficiency Act, 1913, and 2 (1 male, 1 female) in accordance with Section 3 of the Mental Deficiency Act, 1913.

The following Table shows the classification of persons in Mental Deficiency Hospitals at 31/12/1959:

	Male					Female					Total		
	Sec 3	Sec 6	Sec 8	Sec 9	Infor- mal	Sec 3	Sec 6	Sec 8	Sec 9	Infor- mal	M.	F.	T.
Under 16 years	1	4	—	—	6	2	2	—	—	2	11	6	17
16 years and over	1	32	14	1	14	7	24	1	3	12	62	47	109
Total	2	36	14	1	20	9	26	1	3	14	73	53	126

Total number of Reported and Referred Cases at 31st December, 1959.

The total number of reported and referred cases for whom the Local Health Authority of the County Borough was responsible at the 31st December was as follows:—

Table M.H.5.

	Under 16 years		16 years and over		Total
	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Under Statutory Supervision	24	19	36	40	119
Under Guardianship	—	—	2	2	4
Under Voluntary Supervision	—	—	22	13	35
	24	19	60	55	158

SUPERVISION—Statutory and Voluntary. This work is carried out by the Mental Health Workers/Duly Authorised Officers.

Cases under the Statutory Supervision of the Local Health Authority are visited regularly and reports of the visits submitted to the Medical Officer of Health. In this way, besides maintaining contact with the defective, it is possible for the Mental Health Workers to become aware of changes in family circumstances, etc. The visits occasionally bring to light domestic problems, and in some cases convalescent holidays have been arranged, hospital or general practitioner treatment obtained, and the help of various organisations sought for the mothers of defectives or members of their families. In this connection much work has been done in co-operation with the social services, probation services, the N.S.P.C.C., etc. Any special recommendations which have been made are noted and placed before the Health Committee.

The number of visits made to these cases during the year was 334.

Cases under Voluntary Supervision are also visited at regular intervals. These are cases which have been referred to the Local Health Authority otherwise than under Section 57 (3) and (5) of the Education Act, 1944. The number of visits made to these cases during 1959 was 75.

Guardianship.—Four cases are under the guardianship of parents, relatives or friends. In accordance with the appropriate legislation, these cases are examined by a Medical Officer of the Health Department staff at twelve monthly intervals and are visited by the Mental Health Workers regularly. (Each case is also, of course, on the list of a local medical practitioner.) As is the case with defectives under Supervision, any special recommendations are noted and placed before the Health Committee. During the year 27 visits were made by the Mental Health Workers.

After-Care.—Cases which are discharged from an Order under the Mental Deficiency Acts and return to their homes, are followed up so that assistance can be given in their general rehabilitation.

During the year 14 visits were made to 9 such cases.

Classification of Cases under Guardianship and Supervision. In Section A of the following Table, defectives under Statutory and Voluntary Supervision and Guardianship cases have been classified as to their suitability for various types of training, whilst those actually receiving such training at the 31st December, 1959 are shown in Section B.

Table M.H.6.

	Under 16 years		16 years and over		Total
	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Section A.					
Considered suitable for :—					
(i) Occupation Centre	21	17	6	9	53
(ii) Industrial Centre	1	—	30	26	57
(iii) Home Training	1	1	7	8	17
	23	18	43	43	127
Section B.					
Number of cases receiving training on 31.12.1959					
(i) In Occupation Centre	14	13	10	11	48
(ii) In Industrial Centre	—	—	—	—	—
(iii) At home	—	—	—	—	—
	14	13	10	11	48

Cases removed from Lists during 1959.—Of the listed cases who were in hospitals or under community care (including Voluntary Supervision) or in “Places of Safety” on the 1st January, 1959, the following ceased to be under any of these forms of supervision as on 31st December, 1959:

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Died, removed from area, or lost sight of	1	1	2
	1	1	2

Short-term Care.—In accordance with the provisions of Ministry of Health Circular 5/52, short-term care was arranged for a number of defectives while their families took their annual holiday or some member of the family was in hospital, etc.

	<i>Under 16 years</i>		<i>16 years and over</i>		<i>Total</i>
	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Admitted to National Health Service Hospitals	2	—	2	2	6
Admitted to Voluntary Homes, etc.	2	2	—	2	6
	4	2	2	4	12

During the year 423 interviews took place in the Mental Health Department in dealing with parents and relatives of mental defectives seeking advice and assistance.

Occupation Centre.—The Occupation Centre is situated at “Stanley House”, Sinclair Street, St. Helens, and at the start of the year the staff consisted of a Supervisor, two Assistant Supervisors and a Guide/Help. During the year, however, a second Guide/Help was engaged and, as outlined earlier in the Report, two student trainees were appointed in mid-year.

The premises comprise a very large assembly hall (which is utilised as a gymnasium and occupational therapy room for the older defectives), two class rooms for the juniors and one dining room.

Meals are provided through the Schools Meals Service of the Local Education Authority, the charges being in line with those operating in the schools throughout the Borough.

A free 'bus service is provided for the transport of the defectives to and from the Centre, and they travel under the supervision of members of the Occupation Centre staff.

Pupils are graded according to mental age and ability, and the curriculum includes instruction in handwork, sewing and embroidery, rug-making, singing and dancing. It is felt that an Industrial Centre would greatly improve the facilities for the older type of pupil.

The annual “Open Days”, when the pupils' work is exhibited, coincided with the Christmas parties, which were held, according to grouping, on the last two days of term. The parties were provided by the St. Helens Mental Welfare Society, who ensured a gift for each child from Father Christmas.

During the summer, pupils were taken on coach trips, funds for these being provided by the St. Helens Mental Welfare Society.

The Centre is open from Monday to Friday of each week, and conforms to the normal terms and holidays which apply to the Primary Schools in the Borough.

Below is an extract from the attendance register:—

	Borough Pupils		County Pupils		Total
	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Number of pupils on Register on 1.1.1959	25	24	1	—	50
New admissions during the year	—	2	—	—	2
Number who ceased to attend during the year	2	3	—	—	5
Number on register at 31.12.1959	23	23	1	—	47
Average daily attendance during the year	20	16	1	—	37

Proposed New Junior Training Centre.—Plans for the provision of a new Junior Training Centre in the Derbyshire Hill area, which had been initiated in 1958, continued to receive active consideration. The plans were amended to accord with the suggestions of the Ministry's technical advisers and approval was given to proceed with sketch plans. The Health Committee regard this project as one of urgency.

Owing to the shortage of Architects and technical staff, however, it was found impossible to proceed with the completion of plans for the new Centre before the end of the year. It was, however, intended that early in 1960 the scheme should be completed and application made to the Ministry for consents to loan. It is hoped that work will commence on the project during 1960.

VII.—TUBERCULOSIS

Incidence. In 1959, 68 persons were notified as suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis, 11 less than in the previous year. 9 cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis were also notified during the year.

The total number of new cases was 90. This figure includes 13 cases added to the Register from other sources, e.g. Death Returns, etc. The total number of new cases for the previous year was 102.

Mortality. 13 deaths in 1959 were due to tuberculosis, of which 3 were caused by the non-pulmonary form of the disease.

The death rate from tuberculosis was therefore 1.2 per 10,000 of the population.

Table T.B.2. shows the incidence and death rate figures from 1940.

Table T.B.1.
Particulars of new cases and of deaths during 1959.

Ages	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
Under 1 year	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 —	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 —	1	1	3	1	—	—	—	—
15 —	5	9	—	—	—	—	—	—
25 —	14	8	2	—	1	2	—	—
45 —	22	8	—	2	3	1	—	—
65 —	9	—	—	1	5	—	—	—
75 —	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Totals	54	27	5	4	10	3	—	—

Table T.B.2.

Number of cases notified and number of deaths each year, 1940 to 1959

Year	No. of Primary notifications received.		Deaths		Death Rate per 10,000 of population	
	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary
1940	96	44	67	12	6.5	1.2
1941	81	33	46	23	4.5	2.2
1942	80	25	59	15	5.8	1.5
1943	107	24	64	12	6.4	1.2
1944	94	27	48	12	4.9	1.2
1945	81	25	58	13	5.8	1.3
1946	101	24	48	4	4.6	0.4
1947	111	10	68	9	6.4	0.9
1948	98	15	63	7	5.7	0.6
1949	96	16	58	7	5.2	0.6
1950	104	16	46	4	4.1	0.3
1951	87	17	33	8	3.0	0.7
1952	99	17	37	3	3.4	0.3
1953	104	20	27	4	2.5	0.4
1954	109	3	28	1	2.5	0.1
1955	71	7	24	4	2.1	0.4
1956	116	6	12	3	1.1	0.3
1957	85	20	15	2	1.4	0.2
1958	79	5	17	2	1.5	0.2
1959	68	9	13	—	0.9	0.3

Tuberculosis Dispensary and Chest Clinic. The administration and clinical work of the tuberculosis service is carried out at Bank House, Claughton Street, under the supervision of the Area Chest Physician appointed by the Liverpool Regional Hospital Board. This officer is responsible to the Local Authority for work under that part of Section 28 of the National Health Service Act, 1946, which deals with the care and after-care of patients suffering from tuberculosis. The Welfare Officer, who is wholly employed by the Local Authority, occupies an office at the dispensary. Close liaison is therefore possible between the work of the Regional Board and that of the Local Authority.

During 1959 there were 4,161 attendances at the Dispensary, a decrease of 1,573 compared with the previous year.

Particulars of St. Helens cases on the Dispensary Register are set out in Table T.B.3.

Table T.B.3.

Register of St. Helens cases of Tuberculosis during 1959.

	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary
1. No. of cases on Tuberculosis Register on 1/1/1959.....	983	142
2. No. of cases added to the Register during 1959—		
(i) Formal Notifications	68	9
(ii) New cases coming to knowledge of Medical Officer of Health from other sources—		
(a) From Local Death Returns	8	—
(b) From Registrar General's Death Returns (transferable deaths)	4	—
(c) Posthumous Notifications	1	—
(d) Transfers from other areas.....	12	—
(e) Other sources	—	—
3. No. of cases removed from Register during year—		
(a) Recovered	8	3
(b) Deaths—		
(i) Certified as due to Tuberculosis	10	3
(ii) Other Causes	5	—
(c) Transferred to other areas, lost sight of, or otherwise deleted from Register	100	11
4. No. of cases on Tuberculosis Register on 31/12/1959	953	134

Institutional Treatment. 85 patients from St. Helens were admitted to Eccleston Hall for treatment during the year 1959. There were 6 in-patient deaths of St. Helens cases during the twelve months.

VIII.—PREVENTION OF ILLNESS, CARE AND AFTER-CARE

Four meetings of the Care and After-Care Sub-Committee were held during the year. The Sub-Committee consists of the following:—

5 Members of the Health Committee.

One representative from each of the following bodies:

The National Assistance Board

The Ministry of Labour and National Service.

The British Legion.

The Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmen's Families Association.

As in previous years the specialised knowledge of the co-opted members proved of great assistance in the work of the Committee. The work during the year was concerned with the welfare and assistance of both tuberculous and non-tuberculous patients.

Provision of milk as extra nourishment. The scheme for the provision of additional milk which was started in 1950 was continued during the year. Eligibility for issue in each case was approved by the Chest Physician. A remission of charges was made according to a scale approved by the local authority. 26 patients (1 being an observation case) received milk during the year, of whom 10 were new cases and 16 old cases. One case was supplied with 2 pints of milk daily and 25 cases with 1 pint daily, for periods varying from 4 to 12 weeks.

Provision of Nursing Requisites. As approved by the Health Committee, various articles of nursing requisites are available, *e.g.* air rings, urinals, bed pans, rubber sheetings, bed rests, commodes, bed cradles, beds, mattresses, etc. These articles are issued on loan in accordance with charges approved by the Health Committee.

The number of patients using the Nursing Equipment Loan Service during the year was 354. The total fees collected during the year was £48 7s. 3d.

During the year a gift of one wool mattress was received for use in the After-Care Service.

Nursing equipment was supplied on loan to 2 cases of paraplegia being nursed at home following discharge from Orthopaedic Hospitals.

A Bonaped (walking aid) was purchased and supplied on loan to a child of 3 years suffering from poliomyelitis.

Home Shelters. Home shelters are available for loan to tuberculous patients. Lighting and heating installation is provided by the Local Authority but the cost of current consumed is borne by the patient.

COLONIZATION—Provision is made for the maintenance and training of selected cases in tuberculosis colonies. One male patient, first admitted to hospital in 1949 and colonized in May 1954 by agreement with the Health Committee, voluntarily left his employment in the Settlement, and in consequence fees in respect of this man at the rate of £3. 0s. 0d. per week ceased to be charged to the Health Committee as from 5th June, 1959.

CONVALESCENT TREATMENT

(a) Tuberculous Patients

Several applications were made on behalf of tuberculous patients for convalescent treatment.

Five such patients were admitted to Rufford Convalescent Home for periods of 3 weeks each.

One female patient was admitted for 3 weeks convalescence to a Spero Holiday Home at Morecambe.

One boy, aged nine years, was admitted, through the Local Education Authority, to the Children's Convalescent Home, West Kirby, for a period of four weeks.

(b) Non-Tuberculous Patients

Application was made on behalf of a non-tuberculous patient to the St. Helens and District Nursing Association for convalescent treatment and she was admitted for 2 weeks to the Boarbank Convalescent Home, Grange-over-Sands.

Five non-tuberculous female patients were admitted to Rufford Convalescent Home.

Application for Convalescent treatment was made to the Ormskirk Children's Hospital on behalf of nine children, aged 3 months to 12 years, and they were admitted for periods varying from four weeks to three months.

Occupational Therapy. Under Section 28 of the National Health Service Act, the Local Authority operate a scheme for domiciliary occupational therapy for tuberculous patients.

In the absence of a qualified Handicrafts Instructor the work is undertaken by the Welfare Officer and there has been considerable expansion of this Service. Informal handicraft classes are held at the Chest Clinic and home training has also been undertaken. The schedule of handicrafts includes leather work, rugmaking, embroidery, knitting, woodwork, basketry and the making of lampshades, soft toys and artificial jewellery, etc. Samples of completed work are on view throughout the year at the Chest Clinic.

Raw materials are purchased and issued to patients who are allowed to repay the cost by instalments. Pensioner patients are already provided with raw materials by the War Pensioners' Welfare Services or Regimental Funds and the local scheme ensures that non-pensioners may be similarly helped. Small hand-weaving looms and leather work tools, etc. have been provided on free loan.

During the year many patients have used this service and various articles have been purchased to the value of £750 2s. 7d.

Initial free issues (varying from 5/- to £2 0s. 0d.) totalling £8 9s. 9d. have been made to 16 patients.

Without doubt the provision of this scheme has been much appreciated by the patients and has helped very considerably in their recovery and ultimate resettlement in employment.

Welfare. During the year the Welfare Officer advised and assisted patients and their relatives attending the Chest Clinic and regular visits were paid to Ecclestone Hall Hospital in order to help in-patients with personal problems. Home visits were made to both tuberculous and non-tuberculous patients.

The following is a summary of the visits paid by the Welfare Officer:

Visits to tuberculous patients	.....	.....	.....	.....	170
Visits to non-tuberculous patients	.....	.....	.....	.....	103
Visits to Ecclestone Hall Hospital	.....	.....	.....	.....	44
Total					<hr/> 317 <hr/>

There were 514 office interviews.

Close contact was maintained as in previous years with other statutory bodies and voluntary organisations. Some examples of this work are given below.

Statutory Bodies

During the year, 21 families (in which one or more members were suffering from tuberculosis) were included on the tuberculous patients housing list as being in need of re-housing. This figure includes some families who were already on the Corporation's list for re-housing.

The Housing Committee again agreed to the allocation of 24 houses per annum for the priority housing of cases suffering from tuberculosis. Details of the position in 1959 are given below:—

Tuberculous patients on the housing list of the Local Authority,										
1/1/59	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	14
New cases added to list	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	7
Allocations of Council houses	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	8
Number of patients finding their own accommodation	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3
Total on Tuberculosis Housing List—31/12/59	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	10

It is very satisfactory to note that with the co-operation of the Council's Housing Committee, it has been possible over a number of years to make regular and substantial allocation of council houses to tuberculous patients in need of improved housing. At the 31st December, 1959, only ten tuberculous families were awaiting the allocation of council houses. It must be emphasised that the change of environment and improved housing facilities provided under this scheme does much for the improvement of both the physical and mental health of tuberculous cases.

Applications were made to the Housing Department on behalf of two tuberculous patients for exchange of Council houses and in each case exchanges were made to more suitable accommodation.

A request for housing was made to a local agent on behalf of a non-tuberculous patient who name was submitted along with others by the Housing Department for a re-let. The patient was given the tenancy of this house.

Ministry of Labour. As in previous years the co-operation between the Chest Clinic staff and the Disablement Rehabilitation Officers (male and female) proved very successful.

16 male and 6 female patients were added to the Disablement Register during the year.

10 male and 5 female tuberculous patients were placed in employment during the year. Periodic meetings have been held between the Disablement Resettlement Officers, Chest Physician and Welfare Officer for the purpose of discussing types of work suitable for tuberculous patients fit for employment.

Training Courses for Patients. Arrangements are made through the Ministry of Labour and National Service for the industrial rehabilitation and vocational training of selected cases of tuberculosis. Rehabilitation courses are of approximately 10 week periods whilst Government training is from 6 to 12 months. The most popular subjects are motor repairing, joinery, cabinet making, shorthand and typewriting. The patients are eventually placed in employment with local firms.

National Assistance Board. Patients suffering a loss of income in order to undergo treatment for pulmonary tuberculosis and thus becoming eligible for the higher rate of allowance, were referred to the Board as a matter of routine. 24 such cases were referred during the year.

In addition "Exceptional Needs Grants" were made to tuberculous cases as follows:

Extra Nourishment Grants	.....	.....	.....	.....	9 patients
Footwear Allowance	.....	.....	.....	.....	1 patient
Clothing Grants	.....	.....	.....	.....	3 patients
Spectacles Grant	.....	.....	.....	.....	1 patient

Non-tuberculous patients were assisted as follows:

Supplementary Allowances	.....	.....	.....	.....	9 patients
Bedding Grant	.....	.....	.....	.....	1 patient
Travelling Expenses	.....	.....	.....	.....	1 patient
Removal Expenses	.....	.....	.....	.....	1 patient

Throughout the year the National Assistance Board Officers gave all possible help to tuberculous and non-tuberculous patients, and co-operated closely with the Welfare Officer.

Ministry of Pensions and National Insurance. Close liaison was maintained with the officers of this Ministry in order to ensure that all possible facilities were available through these agencies to tuberculous and non-tuberculous patients.

Ministry of Health.—Applications were made to the Ministry of Health on behalf of two spastic children for provision of invalid wheel chairs, which were supplied.

Home Help Service. During the year 2 cases of tuberculosis were referred to the Home Help Service.

Local Education Department—Clothing Grants.—Several cases of children of both tuberculous and non-tuberculous patients were referred for clothing and footwear grants and in each case the maximum allowance was given.

VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS

British Red Cross Society—Emergency Help Service.—The Emergency Help Service helped many pensioner patients with bedding, clothing and occupational therapy materials.

Other Voluntary Agencies

Help with bedding, clothing, grants, etc., was given by the following organisations:—

British Legion, Forces' Help Society, Royal Air Force Association, Royal Naval Benevolent Trust, S.S.A.F.A.

Special mention should be made of the kindness and willingness to help of all the local Branch Secretaries of these organisations.

Application was made on behalf of a tuberculous hospital patient to the Merseyside Hospitals Council for the in-patient grant.

Several patients were referred to the St. Helens Council of Social Service for advice.

VOLUNTARY FUND

During the year, several members of the Care and After-Care Committee and other Welfare Workers assisted the Welfare Officer and the Tuberculosis Health Visitor in maintaining a voluntary fund. This fund (The Home Patients' Voluntary Welfare Fund) is placed at the disposal of the Care and After-Care Sub-Committee to assist patients in ways outside the scope of the Local Authority in its statutory capacity. The Fund derives its income from voluntarily organised whist drives, dances and from donations, etc. Invalid foods have been purchased at regular intervals and 63 food parcels have been distributed to necessitous non-pensioner patients and their dependants. At Christmas, 60 parcels of groceries were distributed, 26 to tuberculous families, 20 to non-tuberculous families, and 14 to pensioners. In addition, Christmas presents were purchased and distributed to 19 children whose fathers were unable to work because of illness.

A contribution of £3. 10s. 0d. was made towards cost of convalescence for a patient and pocket money allowance and travelling expenses were also given from the fund.

These gifts undoubtedly were much appreciated.

B.C.G. VACCINATION

B.C.G. Vaccination (contact scheme). During 1959, 122 cases received B.C.G. vaccination at the Chest Clinic in St. Helens.

B.C.G. Vaccination of School Children

During 1959, 1,377 school children (compared with 772 in 1958) were dealt with under the scheme for the vaccination of children aged 13 years and over against tuberculosis. The increase in the success of this form of vaccination in St. Helens since it was introduced in 1956 is most encouraging.

The 1,377 children mentioned above were given the Heaf multiple puncture tuberculin test. 75 of these children defaulted for various reasons in their attendance for examination. 344 children were found to be tuberculin positive and, therefore, not to require vaccination. Those with a positive reaction of +3 and over were invited to the School Health Service Inspection Clinic, where their cases were investigated clinically and, if necessary, they

were referred for a chest x-ray. Of the negative reactors, 8 were not, at the time, considered suitable for vaccination on account of their poor general condition or the presence of skin ailments, which made this form of vaccination unsuitable. The remaining 950 negative reactors were vaccinated with B.C.G.

British freeze-dried vaccine was used and once again this type of vaccine was found satisfactory in every respect. There were no failures of the vaccine to "take" and no abnormal reactions following vaccination.

The above figures give a tuberculin positive rate of 26.4% for these age-groups. This figure compares with the tuberculin positive rate of 24.2% last year. In previous years, vaccination was confined to children in the 13-14 years age-group only. The extension of this scheme to include all children of 13 years or over during 1959 has resulted in a slight increase in the positive rate. As it is usual for the ratio of positive reactors to tend to increase as the children grow older, the apparent increase in the tuberculin positive rate in 1959 is to be expected.

CHIROPODY SERVICE

Under the provision of Ministry of Health Circular 11/59, the Health Committee took advantage of the provision to contribute to the funds of the St. Helens Council of Social Service towards the cost of the Chiropody Service which they had been running for a number of years. The scheme applied to elderly persons, aged 65 years or over, and up to the 31st March, 1959, the St. Helens Council of Social Service had received substantial grants from voluntary funds towards the cost of running the service. As a result of the power given to Local Health Authorities to administer the Chiropody Scheme the contributions from voluntary sources ceased. Financial liability for the Chiropody Scheme was, in fact, taken over by the Local Health Authority from the 1st April, 1959. This was done by means of monthly grants based upon the number of cases dealt with and the amount of contributions received from patients. The basis of the continued scheme was:

- (1) That any elderly person in St. Helens, aged 65 years or over, may apply for chiropody treatment.
- (2) Each patient would contribute 3/- towards the cost of each treatment and would have free choice to attend any Chiropodist who had been approved by the Local Health Authority.
- (3) All local Chiropodists holding the qualifications laid down under the National Health Service (Medical Auxiliaries) Regulations, 1954, were invited to provide this service on behalf of the Local Authority through the Council of Social Service Scheme.
- (4) Pending Whitley Council negotiations, the fee for treatment payable to Chiropodists was based on a proportion of the agreed Whitley Council sessional fee and fixed at 7/6d. per treatment.
- (5) The surgeries and equipment of Chiropodists participating in the scheme should be of a satisfactory standard and, as regards cleanliness and hygiene, should be maintained at such a standard as would be approved by the Local Health Authority.

The above arrangements operated very successfully and following periodic reviews of the progress of the scheme, formal proposals for the modification of the Council's existing proposals under Section 28 of the National Health Service Act, 1946, were submitted to the Ministry for approval in December, 1959. The expressed intention of the proposals was that as soon as

circumstances permitted, provision would be made directly by the Local Health Authority for a Chiropody Service with initial priority to be given to the elderly, physically handicapped and expectant mothers. These proposals were awaiting approval at the end of the year. (They were, in fact, approved by the Minister in January, 1960.) A copy of the modification to the proposals is given at the end of the section of the Annual Report dealing with the Care and After-Care Service.

Appreciation should be expressed of the efficient running of the scheme by the St. Helens Council of Social Service, who dealt with the following cases during the 9 months ended 31st December, 1959.

Number of treatments given in the period 1st April 1959—31st December 1959:

April	.....	.....	.....	.....	221
May	.....	.....	.....	.....	224
June	.....	.....	.....	.....	241
July	.....	.....	.....	.....	289
August	.....	.....	.....	.....	222
September	.....	.....	.....	.....	227
October	.....	.....	.....	.....	312
November	.....	.....	.....	.....	288
December	.....	.....	.....	.....	364
Total					2,388

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE ACT, 1946—SECTION 28 PREVENTION OF ILLNESS, CARE AND AFTER-CARE

MODIFICATIONS OF PROPOSALS

1. Provision of Laundry Service

During the year the following modification of the Council's existing proposals was approved by the Minister by the addition of the following paragraph under the heading "Other types of Illness (or Illness generally)":

"The Local Health Authority may in respect of any sick person for whose domiciliary care or after-care they are responsible, collect, cleanse and return any bed linen or clothing and also acquire and maintain bed linen and clothing and loan them to any such person."

2. Provision of Chiropody Service

At the end of the year, application was made to the Ministry for approval of the following modification of the Council's existing proposals, by the addition of the following paragraph under the heading "Other Types of Illness (or Illness generally)":

"The Local Health Authority will provide a Chiropody Service by the employment or use of the services of qualified Chiropodists, or may assist voluntary bodies to provide a Chiropody Service, priority being given initially to the elderly, physically handicapped and expectant mothers.

"Arrangements may be made for the use of Chiropodists' own surgeries or for domiciliary visits where necessary, and use will also be made, wherever suitable, of the Council's own Clinics for inspection and treatment sessions."

IX—VENEREAL DISEASES

The Special Treatment Centre is administered by the Liverpool Regional Hospital Board, but male and female nurses at the Centre continued to be provided by the Corporation under agency arrangements.

The following statement shows the number of cases dealt with at the Centre during the year 1959, in comparison with the previous year. This includes cases from outside the Borough who may receive treatment at the St. Helens Centre.

Table V.D.1

	1958		1959	
	M	F	M	F
1. No. of cases under treatment or observation on 1st January	24	34	22	29
2. No. of new cases (including cases previously removed from the register who returned for further observation or treatment) and Transfers	74	30	105	13
3. No. of cases discharged after completion of treatment or transferred to other centres or ceased to attend	76	35	94	13
4. No. of cases remaining under treatment or observation on 31st December	22	29	33	29
5. No. of attendances :—				
(a) For consultation or treatment by Medical Officers	425	265	506	283
(b) For intermediate treatments	89	17	141	19

Table V.D.2 shows the number of cases of definite venereal disease treated for the first time at the Centre during each of the past ten years. This table excludes cases which had received treatment previously at other Centres, and also cases removed from the register in previous years who returned for treatment or observation for the same infection.

Table V.D.2

Number of new cases of Venereal Diseases dealt with during 10 years, 1950 to 1959:

Year	Syphilis		Soft Chancre		Gonorrhoea		Total
	M	F	M	F	M	F	
1950 ----	4	7	—	—	17	1	29
1951 ----	3	4	—	—	13	2	22
1952 ----	2	4	2	—	16	9	33
1953 ----	4	7	1	—	20	9	41
1954 ----	3	2	—	—	10	2	17
1955 ----	3	4	1	—	16	2	26
1956 ----	2	2	—	—	14	9	27
1957	4	5	1	—	18	8	36
1958 ----	2	6	—	—	14	7	29
1959 ----	2	—	—	—	20	5	27

During the year, 86 male and 33 female patients attended the Clinic for the first time, as compared with 72 male and 28 female in 1958. The following table shows how these cases were introduced to the Clinic for treatment or observation:—

<i>Introduced by</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
General Practitioners	14	3
Male V.D. Clinic	—	4
Parents	2	2
Hospitals	6	4
Moral Welfare Societies, Welfare Officers, Probation Officers, etc.	2	12
Patients' own initiative	62	8
	<hr/> 86 <hr/>	<hr/> 33 <hr/>

The following table V.D.3 gives a summary of the services rendered at the treatment centre during the year, the classification showing the areas in which the patients resided.

Table V.D.3.

<i>Name of County, County Borough, etc.</i>	<i>Syphilis</i>	<i>Gonorrhoea</i>	<i>Other Conditions</i>	<i>Total</i>
St. Helens.....	1	13	52	66
Warrington	—	1	7	8
Widnes	—	—	2	2
Liverpool	—	2	10	12
Lancashire C.C.	1	7	21	29
London	—	1	—	1
Sligo (Eire)	—	1	—	1
Total	<hr/> 2 <hr/>	<hr/> 25 <hr/>	<hr/> 92 <hr/>	<hr/> 119 <hr/>

Contact Tracing

During the year the welfare arrangements in connection with the Special Treatment Clinic were carried on as in previous years. The attendant of the male clinic was responsible for the tracing of contacts and for the follow-up of defaulters. In the case of the female clinic, this work was carried out by the department's Welfare Officer of the Care and After-Care Service.

In at least two-thirds of the new cases dealt with, the work of follow-up was rendered difficult owing to the fact that the source of infection was due to a casual "pick-up".

X—MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE

Care of Mothers and Young Children

NOTIFICATION OF BIRTHS.—Under Section 203 of the Public Health Act, 1936, 1,887 live births and 71 still-births were notified during 1959. In respect of these, 1,957 notifications were received from midwives and 1 from a doctor. The corresponding figures for 1958 were 1,949 live births and 71 still-births, 2,019 notified by midwives and 1 by a doctor.

The total number of live births registered as belonging to St. Helens was 1,893, giving a birth rate of 17.1 per 1,000 of the population for the year 1959. The corresponding rates over the past 5 years were respectively 17.0 in 1954, 16.0 in 1955, 16.8 in 1956, 17.2 in 1957 and 16.9 in 1958.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.—During 1959 the deaths occurred of 46 infants under the age of one year, giving an Infantile Mortality Rate for that year of 24.3 per 1,000 live births. The corresponding rates during the preceding five years were 41.0 in 1954, 32.9 in 1955, 27.4 in 1956, 31.0 in 1957 and 35.8 in 1958. The average for the five years 1955-1959 was 33.6. The Infantile Mortality Rate for England and Wales for 1959 was 22.0 per 1,000 births.

Table M.C.W.1 below shows the ages at death and causes of death in these infants. It will be noted that 31 of the infants died before the age of one month (the neo-natal period), 6 died between 1 and 3 months, 5 died between 3 and 6 months, 3 died between 6 and 9 months, and 1 died between 9 and 12 months.

By far the greater number of deaths, therefore, occurred within the first three months. The following tables present a statistical review of the deaths with remarks on the apparent causal factors.

Table M.C.W.1

Ages at which death occurred	Causes of Death						Total
	Congenital	Prematurity	Pneumonia	Infection	Accidents	Other Causes	
Birth to 24 hours	—	9	—	—	—	2	11
1 day to 7 days	5	5	—	—	—	6	16
8 days to 1 month	3	1	—	—	—	—	4
1 month to 3 months	2	—	1	2	1	—	6
3 months to 6 months	2	—	1	1	—	1	5
6 months to 9 months	2	—	1	—	—	—	3
9 months to 12 months	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
ALL AGES	14	15	3	4	1	9	46

The decrease in the Infant Mortality Rate to 24.3 compared with 35.8 in the year 1958 may be considered most satisfactory, as this is the lowest Infant Mortality Rate recorded for St. Helens. This decrease is accounted for by the decrease in the number of deaths due to Congenital Abnormalities from 22 in 1958 to 14 in 1959, and also in Pneumonia from 13 in 1958 to 3 in 1959. There was also a slight decrease from 17 in 1958 to 15 in 1959 in the number of infants whose death was directly attributed to Prematurity.

The following Table M.C.W.2 shows the time of the year at which the various deaths occurred.

Table M.C.W.2.

Month when death occurred of children under one year.

Month during 1959 when death occurred	Causes of Death						Total
	Congenital	Prematurity	Pneumonia	Infection	Accidents	Other Causes	
January	2	2	—	—	—	—	4
February.....	2	2	—	2	—	2	8
March	—	1	1	—	—	1	3
April	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
May.....	1	1	1	—	—	1	4
June.....	1	—	—	—	1	—	2
July	3	—	—	—	—	—	3
August	2	1	1	—	—	1	5
September	2	1	—	—	—	—	3
October	1	4	—	—	—	1	6
November	—	2	—	—	—	2	4
December	—	—	—	2	—	1	3
TOTAL	14	15	3	4	1	9	46

The 4 deaths due to Infection (other than Pneumonia) were caused by Gastro-Enteritis 1, Acute Respiratory Infection 1, Acute Toxic Hepatitis 1, and Acute Encephalitis 1.

The 9 deaths due to other causes were as follows:—Marasmus 1, Haemorrhagic Disease of the Newborn 1, Cerebral Haemorrhage 4, Atelectasis 2, and Erythroblastosis Foetalis 1.

The 17 deaths of premature infants were specially investigated. Table M.C.W. 3 shows the birth weights of these infants, the periods of pregnancy at which these premature births occurred and the causes of the prematurity. (An infant of 5½ lb. or less at birth is classed as a premature birth for the purpose of the following table.)

Table M.C.W. 3

Analysis of Deaths of Premature Infants

(a) Weights at Birth of Premature Infants

Less than 2 lb. 3 oz.	1
2 lb. 3 oz. to 3 lb. 4 oz.	8
3 lb. 4 oz. to 4 lb. 6 oz.	3
4 lb. 6 oz. to 4 lb. 15 oz.	2
4 lb. 15 oz. to 5 lb. 8 oz.	3
Total	17

(b) Periods of pregnancy at which premature births occurred (i.e. 5½ lb. or less at birth)

Period of pregnancy:	
24 weeks	1
28 weeks	2
30 weeks	2
32 weeks	2
33 weeks	3
34 weeks	4
36 weeks	3
Total	17

(c) Causes of Prematurity

Toxaemia of Pregnancy	5
Ante-Partum Haemorrhage	4
Twin Pregnancy	3
Rhesus Negative	2
No apparent cause	3
	17

(17 premature infants died during the year, 15 deaths being due to prematurity and 2 due to congenital defect.)

The following table M.C.W. 4 shows the position regarding ante-natal care of mothers, and also shows whether the mothers were employed during pregnancy.

Table M.C.W.4.

Source of ante-natal care	Mothers working during pregnancy	Mothers not working during pregnancy
Midwife	1	2
Doctor	6	11
Clinic	2	14
Hospital	5	5
No Ante-Natal Care	—	—
TOTAL	14	32

STILL-BIRTHS.—The number of still-births registered as belonging to the Borough was 71. All still-births were investigated, and the causes of intra-uterine deaths were attributable to the following conditions:

Prematurity	16
Toxaemia of Pregnancy	13
Rh. Negative	3
Hydrocephaly	4
Anencephaly	10
Meningocele	5
Breech Delivery	4
Ante-partum Haemorrhage	4
Post-Maturity	3
Prolapsed Cord	2
Cord around Neck	1
Impacted Shoulders	1
Shoulder Presentation	1
Pneumonia in Mother	1
Cause not known	3
	—
	71
	—

MATERNAL DEATHS.—During 1959 2 deaths were recorded by the Registrar General as resulting from childbirth or accidents of pregnancy, giving a maternal mortality rate of 1.02 per 1,000 live and still-births. (The maternal mortality rate for the previous year was 0.51.)

INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN MOTHERS AND CHILDREN

Puerperal Pyrexia.—2 cases of Puerperal Pyrexia were notified during the year, one case occurring on the district and one in hospital. The patient confined at home was suffering from an influenzal cold, and the patient in hospital was diagnosed cystitis. Both patients recovered quickly.

Pemphigus.—No case was reported during the year.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.—No cases were reported during the year.

Other Infectious Diseases.—The following Table, M.C.W.5., shows the number of cases of infectious diseases which occurred in children under 5 years of age, and the deaths resulting therefrom.

Table M.C.W.5.

	Under 1 year		1—5 years	
	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths
Scarlet Fever	2	—	57	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—
Measles	86	—	1217	—
Whooping Cough	4	1	48	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infections	—	—	2	—

CLINIC SERVICES

Child Welfare Clinics.—Clinics for children under 5 years of age are held on 9 sessions weekly at 8 centres.

Table M.C.W.6. shows attendances at the various Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics.

Immunisation against diphtheria is carried out at the Child Welfare Clinics as well as at the special sessions held at the School Clinic in Claughton Street, and at the outlying district clinics.

Ante-natal Clinics.—At the end of the year, ante-natal clinics were being held 9 times weekly at 8 centres.

In March, 1959, the clinics held at hired premises at the Haresfinch Congregational Church, Derwent Road, were closed and the new Carr Mill Health Centre, Eskdale Avenue, was opened by the Mayor of St. Helens. This new clinic is situated near the centre of the new housing estate at Clinkham Wood and is adjacent to the new Library for that area. The building is a modern one and consists of a suitably large waiting and lecture hall with a screen fixture, a demonstration annexe, a doctor's consulting room, a weighing room, an interview room for the Health Visitor and a Midwife, and the necessary sanitary accommodation. In addition, a dental suite of rooms has been provided. It is hoped to plant out the land surrounding the building so that the site will be suitable for the purpose of the centre. The people living in the vicinity have been most interested in its construction, and it is envisaged that the near future will see developments in the formation of Parents' Clubs so that Health Education may play its own part in the lives of the people who live in the neighbourhood.

Table M.C.W.6.

Attendances at Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics during 1959

Child Welfare Clinics.	
No. of children who attended for the first time during the year and who, on the date of their first attendance, were under 1 year of age	1325
Number who attended and who were born in :—	
(i) 1959.....	1161
(ii) 1958.....	903
(iii) 1954-1957	488
No. of attendances by children :—	
(i) under 1 year of age	14588
(ii) between the ages of 1 and 5 years	1786
Ante-natal Clinics.	
Medical Officer's Sessions including Specialist Ante-Natal Clinics:—	
No. of expectant mothers who attended	1752
No. of attendances by expectant mothers	9134
Midwives' Sessions (no medical officer being present):—	
No of expectant mothers who attended	32
No. of attendances by expectant mothers	139
Post-Natal Examinations at Ante-Natal Clinics:—	
No. of mothers who attended	181
No. of attendances	183
Gynaecological and Post-natal Clinic.	
No. of mothers who attended	255
No. of attendances	303
Sunlight Clinic.	
No. of children who attended	41
No. of attendances	664

During the year the scheme for poliomyelitis vaccination was extended to expectant mothers attending ante-natal clinics. A total of 624 mothers were immunised.

Expectant mothers have routine blood tests carried out at these clinics. The tests are for blood grouping, Rhesus factor and Kahn reaction. During the year, 444 specimens were sent for examination. Of these, 298 were Rhesus positive, 144 were Rhesus negative, 2 Genotype reaction and 1 had a positive Kahn reaction.

Following customary routine, the one patient with a positive Kahn reaction was subjected to a confirmatory Wasserman reaction. It was found that the Wasserman result was negative.

Of the 144 patients who were Rhesus Negative in type, only 12 had Rhesus Antibodies present. The importance of this test lies in the fact that the doctor in charge of the confinement is forewarned that the baby may need an exchange transfusion immediately after birth. Rhesus Negative blood may be obtained from the Regional Blood Transfusion Centre before the confinement in readiness for either the mother or the baby. Of these 12 patients, 3 babies needed to have an exchange transfusion, and in all 3 cases this was successful.

In addition to the ante-natal clinics a Specialist Clinic, staffed by two specialist obstetricians attached to the Cowley Hill Maternity Hospital, is held fortnightly. Patients are referred for Consultant advice by Medical Officers of the Local Authority staffing the ordinary ante-natal clinics, and the work done has proved to be of great value. During 1959, 78 patients were referred to the Centre for Consultant opinion.

The Midwife's ante-natal session at Jersey Street Centre was continued during the year. In 1959, 32 patients made 139 attendances.

GYNAECOLOGICAL AND POST-NATAL CLINIC.—This clinic is held once a week at the Hardshaw Street Centre and serves the double purpose of investigation of gynaecological conditions associated with pregnancy and as a clinic for post-natal supervision. During 1959, 255 patients visited this clinic for post-natal examinations. Post-natal supervision is, however, also carried out at the Infant Welfare and Ante-Natal Clinics held in the outlying districts. The total number of women who received special post-natal supervision was 436.

The number of gynaecological patients attending this clinic was 70 (118 attendances).

Patients who needed operative treatment were referred to the out-patient departments of the local hospitals.

At this clinic patients may also receive advice on birth control methods when such is desirable for medical reasons. The following statement indicates the number of patients to whom such advice was given, and the reasons:

Severe debility caused by frequent pregnancies	.....	10
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	.....	2
Mother Rh. Negative with Rh. antibodies	.....	3
Mental Instability	.....	4
	—	
		19
	—	

4 patients sought advice during 1959 because of infertility, and 2 patients attended in the early stage of pregnancy.

SUNLIGHT CLINIC.—To this clinic, which is held twice weekly, are referred weakly and debilitated children likely to benefit from ultra violet therapy. During 1959, 41 children made 664 attendances for irradiation. All the children attending this clinic benefited by the treatment they received.

DISTRIBUTION OF WELFARE FOODS

(a) National Welfare Foods Scheme.

The scheme for the distribution of national welfare foods was continued without alteration during 1959.

The following tables give particulars of the work carried out during the year in the distribution of welfare foods.

Table M.C.W.7.

Receipts and issues of welfare foods for the period 28th December 1958 to 26th December 1959.

	National Dried Milk	Orange Juice	Cod Liver Oil	Vitamin Tablets
1. Stocks received from Ministry of Food				
(a) In Hand on 28/12/58	2215	3995	576	509
(b) Received during the period	32562	57060	6876	6000
Total	34777	61055	7452	6509
2. Disposal of Stocks:				
(a) Issued against coupons—				
(i) paid for by postage stamps	41	191	—	—
(ii) paid for by cash	27928	55979	—	—
(iii) free	1294	100	6523	5874
(b) Issued at full fee	1920	—	—	—
Issues to public	31183	56270	6523	5874
(c) Other Issues	923	468	—	—
Total Issues	32106	56738	6523	5874
3. Returned to Ministry of Food, Damaged, etc.	3	188	3	6
4. Stocks in Hand 26/12/59	2668	4129	926	629

The issues of welfare foods from the various distribution centres during the period 28th December 1958 to 26th December 1959, are shown in Table M.C.W.8. Receipts during this period amounted to £4,817 5s. 4d., made up of £9 3s. 3d. in postage stamps and £4,808 2s. 1d. in cash.

TABLE M.C.W.8.

Issues of Welfare Foods to the public from the various Distribution Centres 1959

<i>Distribution Centre</i>	<i>National Dried Milk</i>	<i>Orange Juice</i>	<i>Cod Liver Oil</i>	<i>Vitamin Tablets</i>
Welfare Foods Centre	24876	34627	4030	3930
Albion Street Clinic	1533	3749	445	340
Blackbrook Clinic	857	2116	300	96
Elizabeth Street Clinic	1104	3772	471	372
Hardshaw Street Clinic	231	2305	150	338
Carr Mill Clinic	148	1883	137	150
Jersey Street Clinic	379	1484	220	113
Lacey Street Clinic	1277	3153	426	265
Nunn Street Clinic	757	2901	298	240
Haresfinch Clinic	21	280	46	30
GRAND TOTAL	31183	56270	6523	5874

(b) **Other Welfare Foods.** The issue of proprietary brands of dried milk through the Council's scheme for mothers and infants was limited to special cases for whom the National Dried Milk was not altogether satisfactory. During 1959, approximately 14,318 lbs. of dried milk were distributed through the Council's Scheme.

DENTAL TREATMENT.—Report by Senior Dental Surgeon on the dental treatment provided for expectant and nursing mothers and young children during 1959.

At the beginning of the year it was hoped to commence a series of dental inspections at the Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics. A full-time Assistant had been appointed in December, 1958, and the opportunity arose to establish an inspection scheme whereby at least periodic inspections could be carried out. Unfortunately, after only two inspections, the Assistant left and the scheme had to be abandoned.

206 mothers were examined during the year and 204 were referred for treatment. 1 mother was referred to Broadgreen Hospital for advice and treatment. In addition to the 101 made dentally fit, 20 mothers have completed their extractions and are awaiting dentures.

85 pre-school children were examined. 4 attended for advice and did not need immediate treatment, 1 was referred to hospital for treatment, and 1 was intractable and impossible to treat.

Table M.C.W.9.

(a) Numbers provided with Dental Care.

	Examined	Needing treatment	Treated	Made dentally fit
Expectant and Nursing Mothers	206	204	163	101
Children under five	85	81	71	71

(b) Forms of Dental Treatment Provided:

	Scalings & Gum Treat- ment	Fillings	Silver Nitrate Treat- ment	Crowns or Inlays	Extrac- tions	General Anaes- thetics	Upper or Lower Dentures Provided		Radio- graphs
							Full	Partial	
Expectant and Nursing Mothers	35	31	—	—	732	135	71	31	1
Children under 5	1	1	—	—	129	66	—	—	—

MINOR AILMENTS.—During 1959, 10 children were referred to and received treatment at one or other of the Council's Minor Ailments Clinics.

CRIPPLED CHILDREN.—Crippling defects in children under 5 years of age are dealt with under the Council's Orthopaedic Scheme, which provides periodic supervision by the Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon and the Physiotherapist.

During 1959, 138 infant welfare cases were dealt with at the Orthopaedic Clinic.

DAY NURSERY.—This nursery is open from 6.30 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday to Friday, and 6.30 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday. Accommodation is limited to children whose mothers are working, and vacancies are allocated in the first place to essential priority groups, consisting of unmarried mothers, widows compelled to go to work, wives of chronically sick husbands and wives separated from husbands or divorced. Any vacancies remaining following placings from the essential priority list are then allocated to wives under hardship owing to temporary illness of the wage earner, women in nursing or domestic employment in local hospitals and women in certain essential services such as public transport.

The health of the children was good on the whole. There were four cases of Whooping Cough and 1 case of Measles, all cases occurring during September, October and November.

The following scale of charges was operated during the year.

5/- per child per day, where both parents working.

2/6 per child per day for single mothers.

3/6 per child per day in all other cases.

Particulars of attendances &c. at the Hall Street Day Nursery during 1959 are shown below:—

No. of approved places at Day Nursery		No. of children on the register at the end of the year		Average daily attendance during the year	
0-2 years	2-5 years	0-2 years	2-5 years	0-2 years	2-5 years
14	16	9	21	6.4	18.5

THE CARE OF PREMATURE INFANTS.—Since 1944 special efforts have been directed towards preserving life in premature and/or immature infants. The birth weight is stated on every notification of birth form, and in those cases born at home where the birth weight was 5 lbs. 8 ozs. or less

a special visit was immediately made by the Supervisor of Midwives, and, if necessary, arrangements made for admission to hospital. For infants remaining at home, special basket cots fitted with special lining, mattress and bedding, a Belcroy feeding bottle and hot water bottles are available, and have proved of value.

During 1959, 52 premature and/or immature babies were born at home and a further 116 were born in hospital. Particulars of these cases are given in Table M.C.W.10.

When these infants are discharged from hospital, or when the midwife has ceased to attend to those born at home, the Health Visitor concerned is immediately notified and pays special follow-up visits.

THE CARE OF ILLEGITIMATE CHILDREN.—As in previous years, special consideration was given to the care of the unmarried mother and her child, and arrangements were made for admission of cases to St. Monica's Home, Liverpool, and to other Homes as required. All cases of unmarried expectant mothers coming to the knowledge of the Department through Health Visitors, Municipal Midwives, Moral Welfare Workers and other agencies, are notified to the Medical Officer in charge of Maternity and Child Welfare Services, who, after investigation, decides which cases can be dealt with at home or through local hospitals, and which cases can most suitably be dealt with by periods of residence in suitable Homes. The mother is admitted to the Home about two months before the expected confinement and remains there after confinement until suitable arrangements can be made for the after-care of herself and the child. During 1959, 38 unmarried mothers were assisted under these arrangements.

In the majority of cases it was found that the parents were willing to keep the girl at home during the pregnancy if some arrangements could be made for the confinement.

The following list gives the places of confinement:—

Cowley Hill Maternity Hospital	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	5
Whiston Hospital, Prescot	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	18
Parents' homes	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	6
Diocesan or other Voluntary Homes	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	9
								<hr/>
Total								38
								<hr/>

Mothers entering Homes are assisted by the Corporation in the payment of their fees. All the unmarried mothers were helped to take out Affiliation Orders.

Every effort was made in all cases to enable the mother to keep the child with her in the parental home, and in many cases these efforts were successful.

Table M.C.W.10.

PREMATURE AND/OR IMMATURE BABIES, 1959.

WEIGHT AT BIRTH	Born in Hospital			Born at Home and Nursed entirely at Home			Born at Home and transferred to Hospital on or before 28th day			Born in Nursing Home and Nursed entirely there			Born in Nursing Home and Trans- ferred to Hospital on or before 28th day		
	Total	Died within 24 hrs of birth	Sur- vived 28 days	Total	Died within 24 hrs of birth	Sur- vived 28 days	Total	Died within 24 hrs of birth	Sur- vived 28 days	Total	Died within 24 hrs of birth	Sur- vived 28 days	Total	Died within 24 hrs of birth	Sur- vived 28 days
3 lb. 4 oz. or less.....	17	4	10	2	2	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Over 3 lb. 4 oz. up to and including 4lb. 6 oz.	19	1	16	4	—	4	3	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Over 4 lb. 6 oz. up to and including 4lb. 15oz.	19	1	17	6	—	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Over 4 lb. 15 oz. up to and including 5lb. 8oz.	61	—	61	34	—	34	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	116	6	104	46	2	44	6	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	—

The following is a summary of the disposal of the children born during the year:—

Cared for by grandparents while mother goes to work	.....	13
Cared for by mother	.....	16
Seeking adoption	.....	2
Adopted	.....	4
Parents married later	.....	3
	Total	38

HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION.—The Cowley Hill Maternity Hospital, administered by the St. Helens and District Hospital Management Committee, is the only Maternity Hospital in St. Helens and has a complement of 50 beds, which includes a 17-bed General Practitioner unit.

Throughout the year patients booked for the Cowley Hill Maternity Hospital at the Council’s Ante-Natal Clinics and also at the Ante-Natal Clinics at the Hospital. When accommodation at the Cowley Hill Maternity Hospital is not available, St. Helens patients are referred to Whiston Hospital. Emergency cases are admitted to Cowley Hill Maternity Hospital when beds are available. Patients are booked for hospital confinement when they come into one of the following classes:—

- Abnormal obstetrical cases
- Multiparity
- Unsuitable home conditions
- Primigravidae

When a woman is recommended for hospital confinement on social grounds and applies to her district clinic for a hospital bed, a report is requested from the district midwife regarding the suitability of the home for confinement. The health visitor of the district is also asked to report on the general family conditions, the amount of help available, the type of work on which the husband is engaged, and any other relevant matter, so that the medical officer in charge of the hospital bookings may assess the case. When a hospital bed cannot be granted, the midwife or health visitor visits the patient and advises the use of the Home Help Service in appropriate cases, the use of maternity outfits, and on the general working of the Domiciliary Midwifery Service.

During 1959, 1,205 births (913 being St. Helens cases) took place in the Cowley Hill Maternity Hospital, 418 St. Helens births in the Whiston Hospital, Prescott, and 10 St. Helens births occurred in other hospitals.

MATERNITY AND NURSING HOMES.—Only one Nursing Home is registered in the Borough, but did not admit any patients during the year.

XI.—MIDWIFERY SERVICE.

MUNICIPAL MIDWIFERY SERVICE.—The staff establishment of the Municipal Midwifery Service is fifteen District Midwives and one Non-Medical Supervisor of Midwives. At the end of the year there was a staff deficiency of 4 District Midwives. The midwives work from their own homes and are grouped in districts to allow for relief duties. The following table gives a summary of the work done by the staff of the Municipal Midwifery Service during 1959.

Number of cases attended:—

as midwife	.....	493
as maternity nurse	.....	58
		551
	Total	.....
Number of live births	.....	541
Number of still-births	.....	11
Number of abortions	.....	2
Number of cases in which midwife sent for medical assistance	.....	201
Supervisor's visits and inspections	.....	640

During the year Gas and Air Analgesia was given to 466 patients, i.e. 84% of the total number of live and still-births. All the domiciliary midwives are qualified to administer Gas and Air Analgesia, and for their use, seven portable sets of Minnitt's Gas and Air Analgesia Apparatus are kept at the Central Ambulance Depot, and are despatched from that depot to the patients' homes by car immediately on request by the Midwives. The use of this analgesia is being urged and encouraged in the service.

Domiciliary midwives are trained in the use of Pethidine during confinement, and they are all issued with this sedative and analgesic drug for use in their practices. During the year this drug was administered to 352 patients. Pethidine in the early stage of labour, and Gas and Air Analgesia have been found most beneficial in helping to alleviate the suffering of childbirth. During 1959 2 midwives attended refresher courses.

There was a slight decrease of 11 in the number of mothers delivered at home, compared with the previous year. The number of cases attended by the staff of the Municipal Midwifery Service represents 28.1% of the total notifications of births in the Borough. The majority of these mothers wished to have their confinements at home, their homes were suitable for a confinement to take place there, and the patients were appreciative of the services provided for them by the Municipal Midwifery Service.

During the year, 1 Midwife retired on superannuation and her vacancy was not filled owing to the prevailing lack of applicants for the post of District Midwife. Owing to the shortage of staff, the districts were re-organised with regard to size and the number of cases estimated in the areas, and so the various duties of the Service were carried out satisfactorily during the year. The midwives are on call day and night, and their off-duty times are arranged in accordance with the suggestions laid down by the Whitley Council. These are: 1 day off each week from 5 p.m. on the day preceding the day off, until 9.0 a.m. on the day following the day off. Every fourth week, each midwife is off duty from 9.0 a.m. on Friday until 9.0 a.m. the following Tuesday. The Friday off this week-end is the day off for that week, and the Monday is the day off for the next week.

Should any one midwife have a particularly heavy period of duty, the Supervisor arranges for some relief from other midwives in the Service who are not so busy. The question of a night rota system has been fully discussed during the year, but the midwives themselves preferred to carry on with the existing arrangements in the Service and rejected the night rota system.

MATERNITY CASES ATTENDED BY MIDWIVES.—The following table shows the extent of the work carried out by the various classes of midwives in St. Helens during 1959.

Table M.C.W.11.

Number of Maternity Cases in the Area of the Local Supervising Authority attended by Midwives during 1959.

	As Midwives	As Maternity Nurses
(a) Domiciliary Midwives. Midwives employed by the Authority	493	58
Midwives in Private Practice	—	1
(b) Midwives in Institutions. Midwives employed by Hospital Management Committees or Boards of Governors under the National Health Service Act. }	1094	152
Midwives in Private Practice	—	—

INSPECTION OF MIDWIVES.—During 1959, 35 midwives notified their intention to practise within the Borough. At the end of the year, 27 of these midwives were still practising within the Borough, and of these 12 were employed by the Local Health Authority, and 15 were engaged at the Cowley Hill Maternity Hospital.

The supervision and inspection of midwives is carried out by Medical Officers and by the Non-Medical Supervisor of Midwives. During 1959, 1 visit for inspection and supervision was paid to a private midwife and 174 visits to the Council's midwives.

XII.—HEALTH VISITING.

The duties of the Health Visitors include the general health welfare of the family as a whole, as well as the specialised duties connected with the School Medical Services and the Care of Mothers and Young Children. This means that time is given to home visiting in connection with the welfare of old people, the follow-up of patients discharged home from hospital, enquiries regarding home conditions of mothers requesting confinement in hospital, in addition to the routine and special visits required to be paid to mothers and young children under school age, and home visits directly connected with School Medical Inspections. The Health Visitors also staff the various Ante-Natal Clinics and Child Welfare Clinics in the Borough, and are in attendance at the School Medical Inspections.

Despite the continued shortage of Health Visitors, the work of the department was well maintained during the year. The payment of car allowances by the Committee to those Health Visitors using their cars gave a mobility to the service which can only be classed as essential.

The number of home visits was considerably increased and extensive propaganda was carried out in the homes and the clinics to ensure the continuance of immunisation against whooping cough, diphtheria and poliomyelitis. The Health Visitors continued to play their part in Health Education of the mothers attending the ante-natal and infant welfare clinics. Talks were given to groups of mothers on general health subjects, special preparations and care during pregnancy and delivery, confinement at home and in hospital, the general care of infants, the special care needed with premature and immature infants, and the continued need for preventive vaccination and immunisation. Mothers attending the clinics were encouraged to discuss behaviour problems of young children and older children. In addition to these talks, demonstrations on cooking and simple household management were given by demonstrators from the Electricity Board and the Gas Board, at the new Carr Mill Health Centre. It is hoped that a projector will be obtained for use in the different centres so that films on health subjects may be shown, and the scope of health education thus considerably expanded.

The continuance of loyal and willing service by the Staff is fully appreciated by all who work with them.

During the year two Health Visitors attended Refresher Courses.

The following statement shows the home visits paid by Health Visitors during the year:

To expectant mothers

(a) first visits	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	468
(b) subsequent visits	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	324

To infants under one year

(a) first visits	1857
(b) subsequent visits	7934

To children aged one to five years	20399
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To tuberculous households	805
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To other cases	5393
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Total	37180
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XIII.—HOME NURSING SERVICE.

During 1959, the Home Nursing Service was carried out by the St. Helens and District Nursing Association acting as agents of the Local Health Authority. This service is now under the direct supervision of the re-organised Committee of the Nursing Association on which is full representation from the Local Health Authority.

The staff establishment is 1 Superintendent, 2 Assistant Superintendents, and 21 District Nurses. The nurses paid 81,880 home nursing visits during the year, and there were 2,810 cases attended to during this period. An analysis of the cases and visits is given below.

Number of cases attended and visits made by Home Nurses during 1959.

<i>Nature of Illness</i>										<i>Cases</i>	<i>Visits</i>
Medical	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2,368	68,777
Surgical	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	226	5,987
Infectious Diseases	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	71	583
Tuberculosis	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	78	5,394
Maternal Complications	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	15	182
Others	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	52	957
Totals										2,810	81,880
Patients (included in above totals) who were 65 years											
or over	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	979	42,911
Children (included in above totals) who were under											
5 years of age	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	334	2,474
Patients (included in above totals) who had more than											
24 visits during the year	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	617	60,062

During 1959, as in preceding years since 1948, arrangements were continued whereby the duties of the Local Health Authority, under Section 25 of the National Health Service Act, 1946, for the provision of domiciliary nursing were carried out through the agency of the St. Helens District Nursing Association.

During the year there was a small decrease in the number of cases attended and the number of visits paid compared with 1958. 2,810 cases were dealt with in 1959 as against 3,038 cases in 1958, and 81,880 visits were paid to homes as compared with 87,318 in 1958.

An analysis of the cases dealt with shows that the decrease in visits arose in two main categories, those labelled "medical" and "tuberculosis". This was due mainly to the fact that there was less call from general practitioners for domiciliary antibiotic treatment. One must welcome this development since, during the past years, a very heavy burden has been thrown on the domiciliary nursing service by the demand for such treatment. For such home treatment often it is felt that the individual could have been treated as a surgery or hospital out-patient. Other categories requiring home nursing treatment, such as surgical or infectious disease cases, remained approximately at the same level and, viewing the picture as a whole throughout the year, it would be true, therefore, to say that the volume of work undertaken remained approximately the same, although the pressure for specialised antibiotic treatment was lessened.

Once again the valuable work rendered by the Association in the care of aged persons at home should be noted. More than half the total visits undertaken during the year were paid to persons aged 65 or over, and the value of such service in this form of social welfare cannot be over-estimated.

The work of the voluntary members of the Committee who give so much of their time to the work of the Association is much appreciated by the Local Health Authority. Recognition must also be given to the untiring efforts of the nursing staff, who rightfully earned so much praise from members of the community for their vigilant efforts in the domiciliary care of sick persons.

XIV.—HOME HELP SERVICE.

The Home Help Service operating in St. Helens provides help in cases of maternity, sickness, convalescence, old age and infirmity, or any emergency in the household due to illness.

At the 31st December, 1959, there were 68 part-time Home Helps working an average 23 hour week, i.e. the equivalent of 30 whole-time staff.

During the year the Home Helps attended 399 cases, 138 of whom were new cases and 261 were old cases from previous years. An analysis of the cases dealt with is given below.

Table H.H.1.

Cases attended	No.	Approx. % of Total Cases	Full Time	Part Time	Recovery of Fees	
					Full Fee	Part Fee
Maternity Cases.						
Domiciliary Confinements.....	19	4.7	15	4	4	15
Hospital Confinements	1	0.3	1	—	—	1
Ante-natal Cases.....	7	1.8	1	6	4	3
Sickness and other Cases.						
Chronic Illness	57	14.3	—	57	8	49
Acute Illness	7	1.8	—	7	5	2
Tuberculosis	8	2.0	—	8	1	7
Mental Illness	—	—	—	—	—	—
Old Age and Infirmity	299	74.8	—	299	24	275
Blind	1	0.3	—	1	—	1
Totals	399	100	17	382	46	353

Home help service for the 138 new cases during the year was recommended by the following:

Welfare Services	38
National Assistance Board	6
Health Visitors and Midwives	17
District Nursing Association	3
Hospitals	5
Personal application, neighbours and relatives	48
Private Practitioners	14
Society for the Blind	3
Housing Dept.	4
	<hr/>
	138
	<hr/>

The following statement shows the visits paid by the Home Help Organiser during the year:—

Number of primary visits to cases	232
Number of return visits to cases	898
Number of visits to Home Helps	152
	<hr/>
	1282
	<hr/>

The standard fee during the year for Home Help Services, as laid down by the Health Committee, was 3/4d. per hour to 8th May, 1959, and 3/6d. per hour from the 9th May, 1959. Reduction of this fee in part is based on an approved scale.

During the year the establishment of Home Helps was increased by 4, this being part of the Council’s policy towards the strengthening of the domiciliary health services. The Health Committee keeps the service constantly under review and gives consideration to appropriate additions to the establishment as the demands for the service increase.

Modification of Proposals.

National Health Service Act, 1946, Section 29—Domestic Help.

During the year the following modification of the Council’s existing proposals was approved by the Minister.

Part III—Development Plan

add:

“The Local Authority may either directly or by the employment as their agent of any voluntary organisation, provide night attendants in cases where aged and chronic sick and other persons are in need of care during the night which cannot otherwise be provided by relatives.”

XV.—INCIDENCE OF BLIND AND PARTIALLY SIGHTED PERSONS.

Welfare of blind persons in St. Helens is the responsibility of the Welfare Services Committee of the Local Authority. The majority of their activities in this sphere are undertaken on their behalf by the St. Helens and District Society for the Welfare of the Blind.

The Medical Officer of Health is responsible for arrangements for certification for registration.

During 1959, 87 completed forms B.D.8 were received by the Medical Officer of Health. Of these, 39 related to blind persons and 46 to partially-sighted persons, and in two cases the persons examined were found to be neither blind nor partially sighted.

(a) Registered Blind Persons.

On the 1st January, 1959, there were 280 persons registered as blind in St. Helens. During the year 37 new cases were added to the register (including 6 cases formerly classed as partially sighted persons). Two cases were transferred into the Borough from other areas, whilst 36 names were removed from the register due to death or transfer out of the Borough, including one case decertified. Thus at the end of 1959 there were 283 registered Blind persons in St. Helens. The following analysis gives the information as at 31st December, 1959, concerning the number of blind persons of both sexes according to age groups.

<i>Age Distribution:</i>							<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Age under 1 year	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	—	—	—
1-10	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	1	2
11-15	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	—	1	1
16-20	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	1	3
21-29	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3	6	9
30-39	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4	8	12
40-49	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	14	15	29
50-59	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	15	7	22
60-64	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	9	14	23
65-69	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	8	16	24
70-79	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	36	54	90
80-84	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	13	26	39
85-89	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	8	14	22
90-	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4	3	7
							117	166	283

Educational and Occupational distribution.

The following analysis shows the occupational states of the employed registered blind persons.

							<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Education—At school							1	1	2
Not at school							—	1	1
							1	2	3
Employment—Workshops							<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Age 16-20							—	—	—
21-39							2	1	3
40-49							5	2	7
50-59							3	1	4
60-64							4	—	4
65 & over							—	—	—
							14	4	18
Employment—Elsewhere							<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Age 16-20							—	1	1
21-39							2	1	3
40-49							1	—	1
50-59							1	—	1
60-64							1	—	1
							5	2	7

Thus 25 were employed during the year (19 males and 6 females).

The following table indicates the different types of occupation of the 25 registered blind employed persons noted above:

Occupation	Place of Employment			Total
	Work-shops	Home	Elsewhere	
Agents, Collectors, etc.	1	—	—	1
Basket Workers	8	—	—	8
Brush Makers	4	—	—	4
Chair Seaters	—	—	—	—
Cleaners	1	—	—	1
Factory Operatives	—	—	1	1
Labourers	—	—	1	1
Machine Knitters	3	—	—	3
Mat Makers	—	—	1	1
Miscellaneous	1	—	—	1
Telephone Operators	—	—	1	1
Typists	—	—	3	3
Totals	18	—	7	25

The following table indicates the position of the remaining 255 unemployed registered blind persons with respect to training and capability for employment.

Classification	Males	Females	Total
Under Training	1	—	1
Trained but Unemployed	2	—	2
Not Available for Work	4	28	32
Not Capable of Work	16	17	33
Not Working (all over 65 years of age).....	69	113	182
Unemployed but capable of and available for work	5	—	5
Totals	97	158	255

Forty-nine of the persons registered as blind also suffered additional disabilities as indicated in the table below:

							Males	Females	Total
Mentally Disordered	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	1	3
Mentally Defective	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	—	2
Physically Defective	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	7	12	19
Deaf without Speech	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	—	1
Deaf with Speech	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	3	5
Hard of Hearing	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	9	8	17
Physically Defective and Deaf or Partially Deaf	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	1	2
Totals	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	24	25	49

Nineteen persons are maintained in homes, 9 in homes for the blind, 3 in mental hospitals, 2 in mental deficiency institutions, and 5 in other hospitals.

(B) Registered Partially Sighted Persons

During the year 46 completed B.D.8. forms were received by the Medical Officer of Health in respect of partially sighted persons.

On the 1st January, 1959, there were 80 persons registered as partially sighted. Twenty new cases were admitted to the register during the year (including one person transferred from Register of Blindness and one case transferred from another area). Thirteen names were removed from the register for the following reasons: Death 7, transfer to register of blindness 6. Thus at the 31st December, 1959, there were 87 persons registered as partially sighted within the Borough.

The following analysis gives the information concerning these persons by age groups:—

<i>Age distribution:—</i>								<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>Age</i>	5-15	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3	2	5
	16-20	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4	2	6
	21-49	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	5	6	11
	50-64	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4	5	9
	65 and over	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	16	40	56
								32	55	87

Educational and Occupational Distribution.

The following analysis shows the different states of occupation of the 87 partially sighted persons:

	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
(a) Persons over 16 years of age—			
(i) Available for work	—	1	1
(ii) Not available for or not capable of work	10	22	32
(iii) Employed	1	3	4
(vi) Undergoing training	—	—	—
Totals	11	26	37
(b) Persons under 16 years of age—			
(i) Attending Special Schools	1	1	2
(ii) Attending other Schools	1	1	2
(iii) Not at school.....	—	—	—
(iv) Ineducable	1	—	1
Totals	3	2	5

Particulars of Cases Examined.

The following table shows the analysis of completed forms B.D.8 received by the Medical Officer of Health during 1959 in respect of Blind and Partially Sighted Persons.

(i) Number of cases registered or re-examined during the year in respect of which para. 7(c) of Forms B.D.8 recommends:	Cause of Disability							
	Cataract		Glaucoma		Retrolental Fibroplasia		Others	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
BLIND								
(a) No treatment	5	10	—	1	—	1	12	19
(b) Treatment (medical, surgical or optical)	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
PARTIALLY SIGHTED								
(a) No treatment	5	18	—	1	—	—	5	5
(b) Treatment (medical, surgical or optical)	3	2	1	—	—	—	2	4
(ii) Number of cases under (i) above which on follow-up action have received treatment:								
(a) Blind cases	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Partially sighted cases	2	1	1	—	—	—	3	3

Registered Blind Persons

As was the case in 1958, cataract again proved to be the commonest condition responsible for blindness amongst the 31 newly registered cases in 1959, and one case of Retro-Lental Fibroplasia was ascertained during the year.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

There were no cases of ophthalmia neonatorum notified to the Medical Officer of Health during the year 1959.

Source of Notification.

Of the 47 persons for whom new Certificates B.D.8 were issued, ascertainment of these cases was as follows:

	Blind	Partially Sighted	Sighted
Welfare Staffs (including Home Teachers for the Blind)	21	8	2
Own General Practitioner	2	3	—
Unknown Source	—	3	—
Personal Request	3	2	—
Health Visitor	—	1	—
National Assistance Board	2	—	—
Total	28	17	2

It will be seen that Welfare Department Staffs were responsible for 31 of the 47 notifications received and of those 31, 21 were found to be blind persons. This compares with former years, where the main source of notification was from medical sources.

Acknowledgement is made to Mr. M. F. Beglin, Chief Welfare Officer, for the information contained in the above Section.

XVI.—GENERAL PROVISION BY THE HEALTH AND WELFARE SERVICES FOR THE CARE OF HANDICAPPED PERSONS INCLUDING EPILEPTIC AND SPASTIC PERSONS

The welfare provision for the care of handicapped persons, including Epileptics and Spastics, is undertaken by the Welfare Services Committee of the Council in accordance with the scheme approved by the Ministry of Health on 24th May, 1954.

At the end of 1958, 369 persons substantially and permanently handicapped were on the register. Seventy new registrations were effected during the year, 18 deaths occurred and 8 removals outside the Borough. Three cases were transferred to Register of Blindness and one case to Register of Aged Persons, making a resultant total of 409 at the end of December, 1959.

During 1959, the majority of the 70 registrations effected were from persons in gainful employment as compared with previous years when the majority had been from unemployed persons. The greatest need was again found to be for social amenities, with the result that the Social Centre at the Congregational Church Hall, Ormskirk Street, continued to operate with some 22 persons regularly attending and practising a variety of crafts designed to meet their individual needs. New types of handicrafts were introduced to meet the demand of handicapped persons who had acquired a substantial degree of dexterity.

A Christmas Party was held at the Social Centre for all handicapped persons who regularly attended craft classes. This again proved to be a success and tea was followed by a film show. Each person attending the party received a Christmas gift from the Welfare Services Committee.

In February the handicapped persons were given the opportunity of attending a pantomime, transport being provided to enable them to attend. The outing proved to be very successful.

Arrangements were made with a voluntary association for the transport of persons requiring periods of convalescence at centres outside St. Helens and, as in previous years, the handicapped persons had the pleasure of two separate days outings to the seaside. As a result of attendance at the Social Centre, two persons were found employment by the Disablement Resettlement Officer in the light of aptitude reports submitted by craft instructors.

The Department purchased a further three wheelchairs for issuing to handicapped persons so that their relatives could take them out for short spells.

HANDICAPPED PERSONS

(a) Classification in relation to defect

Details of the numbers and classification of known handicapped persons in St. Helens are given below. These are classified under the appropriate Medical Research Council code and the figures shown in parenthesis denote the numbers who suffer from dual disabilities, e.g. deaf and partially sighted, blind and epileptic, etc.

Table H.P.1.

**Details of registered handicapped persons in St. Helens
classified in accordance with disability.**

DISABILITY	Code	Male	Female	Total
Amputation	A/E	25(1)	3	28
Arthritis and Rheumatism	F	18(3)	7(2)	25
Congenital Malformations and Deformities	G	20(1)	6	26
Diseases of the Digestive and Genito-Urinary Systems; of the Heart or Circulatory System; of the Respiratory System (other than T.B.); and of the skin	H/L	86(9)	10	96
Injuries of the head, face, neck, thorax, abdomen, pelvis or trunk. Also injuries or diseases (other than T.B.) of the upper and lower limbs and of the spine	Q/T	60(11)	12(1)	72
Organic Nervous Diseases— Epilepsy, Disseminated Sclerosis, Poliomyelitis, Hemiplegia, Sciatica, etc.	V	47(4)	29(1)	76
Neuroses, Psychoses and other Nervous and Mental Disorders not included in V	U/W	22(1)	6	28
Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	X	18(1)	3(1)	21
Tuberculosis (Non-Respiratory)	Y	—	1	1
Diseases and Injuries not specified above	Z	27(1)	9	36
Totals		323(32)	86(5)	409

(b) Grouping in relation to employability

The following table, H.P.2., shows the grouping of the 409 handicapped persons in relation to their employability. These are classified by sex in the five recognised employability groups.

Table H.P.2.
Details of registered Handicapped Persons in St. Helens
grouped in accordance with employability.

Age Group	Employability Group	Code	Male	Female	Total
Persons aged 16 & upwards	Capable of work under ordinary industrial conditions	A	185	23	208
	Incapable of work under ordinary industrial conditions but mobile and capable of work in sheltered workshops	B	81	26	107
	Incapable of work under ordinary industrial conditions and insufficiently mobile for work in sheltered workshops but capable of work at home	C	7	6	13
	Incapable of or not available for work	D	49	31	80
Children under the age of 16 years	Whose needs are likely to be met under other enactments but for whom the L.A. have a general responsibility under S.29 of the National Assistance Act, 1948	E	1	—	1
Totals			323	86	409

The Table H.P.3., shows the total demands made by 243 of the 409 registered handicapped persons for the various services available under this scheme. Many of the 243 persons wish to participate in more than one service. The remaining 166 cases have requested assistance in the obtaining of employment, and of benefits other than those provided by the local Welfare Authority.

Adaptations to premises					12
(provision of concrete ramps, pavement crossing, etc.)					
Weekly Handicrafts					
(a) In the Home					7
(b) Collective					88
Need for Holidays					5
Cases receiving regular social visits					271
Manual assistance					10
Social Centre					179
Recreation and entertainments					45
Weekly Transport facilities					10
Total					627

Adaptations to premises have been carried out at the home of 12 disabled persons to enable them to live normal lives in their own surroundings. Ramps have been provided to replace steps, and gateways have been widened to facilitate the passage of wheelchairs and motorised tricycles.

During the year, three handicapped persons were admitted to Part III Accommodation, one to accommodation provided by the Local Authority and two to accommodation outside the Borough.

Three Welfare Visitors were appointed to the staff of the Department to undertake the regular visiting of handicapped persons in addition to other duties concerned with the care of aged persons living in their own homes. During the year, 714 domiciliary visits were made to handicapped persons at home and seven such persons received regular instruction at home.

Epileptics

There were 38 known cases of epilepsy in the Borough over the age of 15 years. Of these 27 were males and 11 females.

Table H.P.4.
Number of registered Epileptics under
Classification V. of Table H.P. 1.

	Employed	Un- Employed	Total
Males	5 (1)	22 (4)	27
Females	1	10	11
Total	6	32	38

Epileptics of school age are not registered with the Welfare Department, but at the close of school life recommendations are made to that department, after assessment of individual cases, with regard to the possibilities of placing in employment.

During the year, eight epileptics were in accommodation provided by the Welfare Authority. Of these, three males and four females were in colonies administered by voluntary organisations and one male in accommodation administered by the Local Authority.

CO-ORDINATION OF THE WELFARE OF AGED PERSONS

Since 1954 the Welfare Services Committee of the Council has operated a scheme for the care of aged persons living within the Borough. On the 31st December, 1958, the department was supervising the care of 694 elderly persons. A further 213 registrations were made during 1959 and the deaths were recorded of 40 of the registered elderly. There were similar fluctuations in the numbers of elderly blind and deaf and on the 31st December, 1959, the department was responsible for the welfare of 1,200 elderly persons, 177 of whom were in residential care, 348 were being visited by Home Teachers for the Blind, 124 by the Chaplain for the Deaf, 12 by visitors for the handicapped and the remaining 539 by the Welfare Officers. 3,946 visits were made to the persons who expressed a wish to be so visited.

Each person registered under the Care of Aged Scheme was supplied with a pre-paid postcard in order to summon assistance should the help be needed before the next normal visit became due. During the year 30 of the persons registered returned these cards seeking assistance.

The services whereby hot meals are delivered to the homes of the aged and infirm continued to be popular and deliveries are made from the Council's Hostels to cover three days per week, i.e. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. In addition, arrangements were made for dinners to be prepared at the Town Hall kitchen and on the 10th April, 1959, deliveries commenced on the basis of two days weekly, i.e. Monday and Wednesday. During the year, 7,119 meals were prepared at the Council's hostels and 1,388 meals at the Town Hall kitchen for distribution by ladies of the W.V.S. to the homes of elderly persons living alone. Transport was provided on a voluntary basis by members of the Rotary Club of St. Helens and the W.V.S. van. The Welfare Services Committee made a grant to provide transport for the remainder. The cost per meal to the recipient was maintained at 1/-. A special delivery of traditional fare was undertaken on Christmas Day.

During the year 30 of the persons registered under the scheme became too infirm to continue residing alone and were admitted to residential accommodation, eight having to be placed outside the Borough and the remaining 22 being accommodated in the Council's hostels. It was possible to provide in addition, short stay care for 9 aged persons, whilst their relatives, who normally cared for them, obtained a well-earned holiday or entered hospital for treatment.

The Welfare Services Committee have six wheelchairs available for loan to elderly persons who are normally housebound, so that relatives and friends can take them out in suitable weather. During the year these chairs were continuously out on loan.

The need of the elderly to be provided with laundry facilities became more apparent, and during 1959 a further 78 elderly persons wished to partake of this service. The launderette scheme commenced in March, 1958, when arrangements were made with the Bendix Launderette Service whereby concessionary rates could be applied to pensioners using the launderette service at off peak periods. Since the inception of this scheme, 290 pensioners have availed themselves of this service, of whom 49 housebound pensioners have their laundry collected and delivered by the ladies of the W.V.S. The concessionary rate is granted at 2/3d. per 9 lb. washing load, which is below the commercial price and is applicable to Thursday and Friday at each of the town's launderettes.

The protection of movable property of elderly persons admitted to hospital was undertaken where no suitable arrangements had otherwise been made by the patient. Where property remained in the house, arrangements were made to insure the contents and the Chief Constable kindly arranged police supervision of the premises. Where the tenancy could not be protected, all moveable property was transferred to storage in accommodation provided by the Welfare Services Committee. On the death of an elderly person, where no satisfactory arrangements had otherwise been made, the Welfare Services Committee undertook to arrange the burial and to maintain contact with the Duchy of Lancaster concerning the administration of the estate.

During the year there has been excellent co-operation from all the voluntary and statutory bodies in the area, and thanks must be offered to the General Practitioners who have willingly advised and sought the assistance of the Department concerning their patients' welfare.

Problems in connection with the following were also ascertained and were dealt with by reference to an appropriate source:—

Service of General Practitioner	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4
Spiritual help from Clergy	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3
Chiropody Service	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
National Assistance benefit	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	15
W.V.S. clothing	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	24
Assistance of Home Teachers	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	6
Assistance of Home Help Service	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	13
Assistance of Public Health Inspectors	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	5
Assistance of Duly Authorised Officers	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	7
Assistance of Health Visitors	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4
Assistance of District Nurses Association	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	6
Renewed contact with relatives	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3
Requiring sub-tenants to reside with them and provide continuous care	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	6
Provision of Fireguard	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
North Western Gas Board	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2

Acknowledgement is made to Mr. M. F. Beglin, Chief Welfare Officer, for the information contained in the above section.

XVII.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Meat and Other Foods. The inspection and supervision of all meat at the Public Abattoir and at the private slaughterhouse is carried out by qualified meat inspectors.

Table S.I.1.
CARCASSES INSPECTED DURING 1959.

	PUBLIC ABATTOIR					Private Slaughter-house
	Cattle excluding cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Pigs
Number killed	1407	5100	48	9920	6195	5333
Number inspected	1407	5100	48	9920	6195	5333
Condemned:—						
(a) All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci—						
(i) Whole carcasses condemned	2	1	2	1	9	8
(ii) Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	333	1871	—	1534	2318	1833
(iii) Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	23.8%	36.7%	4.2%	15.5%	37.5%	34.5%
(b) Tuberculosis only:—						
(i) Whole carcasses condemned	1	11	—	—	—	—
(ii) Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	105	776	—	—	68	89
(iii) Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	7.5%	15.4%	—	—	1.1%	1.6%
Cysticercosis:—						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	—	5	—	—	—	—
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	—	5	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—

The practice was continued during the year of submitting to the Liverpool City Laboratories for examination specimens of parts of carcasses or organs suspected to be affected with *Cysticercus Bovis*. 5 specimens were sent and in all cases the presence of *Cysticercus Bovis* was confirmed.

Table S.I.1 gives details of the results of such inspection.

Under the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1958, one licence was granted and 32 licences were renewed to slaughtermen for the year ended 31st December, 1959.

At the end of the year, 177 premises were registered under Section 127 of the St. Helens Corporation Act, 1933, for the preparation or manufacture of potted, pressed, pickled or preserved meat, fish, or other food intended for the purpose of sale.

During 1959, 3,874 visits were made by Inspectors to shops, stalls and other places where food is prepared or stored.

Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924.—No infringement of these Regulations was found during the year.

Merchandise Marks Act, 1926 and Orders.—Infringements of the Merchandise Marks Orders were dealt with by verbal warnings.

Food Hawkers.—Section 47 of the St. Helens Corporation (Electricity and General Powers) Act, 1948, requires the registration of any person (other than a person keeping open shop) who sells, offers or exposes for sale food from any vehicle or receptacle. The section also requires the registration of storage accommodation for any food intended for any of these purposes.

At the end of the year 27 persons and 47 separate sets of premises were registered under this section.

A prosecution taken under this Section resulted in a fine of £1 being imposed on a person who exposed food for sale from a barrow whilst not being registered with the Corporation as a hawker of food.

Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955, and Clean Food Campaign.

An increase in the Inspectorial Staff during the year allowed more emphasis to be placed on the routine inspection of food premises under the Food Hygiene Regulations. The survey of such premises in 1958 was followed by further routine visits when educational literature such as pamphlets and posters were given out. Discussions were also held with the occupiers and food handlers at the same time on their respective responsibilities under the Regulations. Whilst this procedure takes quite a time, the results seen in the improvement of premises justify it. This method also fosters further advances for advice being made to the Public Health Inspectors by the occupiers.

Surveys of the licensed premises and industrial canteens in the Borough were also made in the year. Representations made to the occupiers after the surveys obtained some quick improvements to these classes of food premises. It has been the practice when plans are submitted under building byelaws for alterations to food premises to interview the depositor and get the plans amended to provide the standard required under the Food Hygiene Regulations. In licensed premises this standard included the provision in the bars of double sinks with hot and cold water supply for washing up and wash basins for hand washing. In many instances industrial canteens have either been completely redesigned or new canteens built.

It was not found necessary during 1959 to institute legal proceedings under either the Food Byelaws or Food Hygiene Regulations.

Food traders in the Borough are generally making a serious endeavour to comply with their legal responsibilities. A certain amount of difficulty is being experienced in providing means of drainage to washing facilities in shops where the business portion consists of the former front living-room of a dwelling-house and the rear portion is still occupied for living purposes.

The following are the particulars at the end of the year of the numbers and types of food premises in the Borough.

Grocers' and General Shops	590
Butchers' Shops	85
Greengrocery and Wet Fish Shops	63
Fried Fish Shops	76
Bakehouses	56
Snack Bars, Cafes, etc.	29
Industrial Canteens	33
Hawkers' storage premises	47
Dairies	15
Ice Cream premises (manufacturing)	3
Miscellaneous food premises	23
Total	1,020

Premises registered under Local Acts.

The following are the particulars of food premises in the Borough registered under local Acts together with the numbers of inspections made in respect of each of these classes of premises:—

	<i>No. of Premises</i>	<i>No. of Inspections</i>
(a) St. Helens Corporation Act, 1933—Section 127—Premises used for the preparation or manufacture of potted, pressed, pickled or preserved meat, fish or other foods	177	360
(b) St. Helens Corporation Act, 1933—Section 133—		
(1) Premises used for the manufacture and sale of ice cream	3 }	435
(2) Premises used for the sale of ice cream	316 }	
(c) St. Helens Corporation (Electricity and General Powers) Act, 1948—Section 47. Premises used by hawkers of food as storage accommodation	74	112

Premises registered under Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.

Premises used as dairies.....	15	89
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Disposal of Condemned Food.

Condemned meat and offals from the Public Abattoir are disposed of to a firm of animal foodstuffs and fertilisers manufacturers. This firm has given a guarantee that no raw meat will be sold to pet shops and that adequate steps will be taken for preventing the meat from getting into unauthorised hands. All condemned meat and offals are treated with a suitable colouring agent before release from the Public Abattoir.

Other classes of condemned foodstuffs are dealt with by treatment with disinfectant for the purpose of rendering them unmarketable, and are afterwards buried at the local refuse tip. Canned goods are punctured before release and are similarly disposed of.

MILK AND MILK PRODUCTS

Milk and Dairies General Regulations, 1959.

- At the end of the year there were registered under these Regulations:
 - 17 persons as distributors of milk from dairy premises;
 - 291 persons as distributors of milk in sealed bottles only from shops; and
 - 15 premises as dairies.

Most of the milk received into dairy premises in St. Helens is delivered to those premises in sealed bottles. The administration of these Regulations does not now, therefore, constitute a serious problem.

494 visits were paid by the Public Health Inspectors to these premises during the year.

Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949.

The following licences were granted during the year under these Regulations:—

Dealers' Licences authorising the use of the special designation "STERILISED"	322
Dealers' Licences authorising the use of the special designation "PASTEURISED"	160
Dealers' Licences authorising the use of the special designation "TUBERCULIN TESTED MILK (PASTEURISED)"	99
Dealer's (Pasteuriser's) Licence authorising the use of the special designation "PASTEURISED"	1
Supplementary Licences authorising the use of the special designation "STERILISED"	9
Supplementary Licences authorising the use of the special designation "PASTEURISED"	10
Supplementary Licences authorising the use of the special designation "TUBERCULIN TESTED MILK (PASTEURISED)"	10

Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949

The following licences were granted under these Regulations for the year ended 31st December, 1959:

Supplementary Licences authorising the use of the special designation "TUBERCULIN TESTED (FARM BOTTLED)"	4
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Biological Examination of Milk.—In the routine examination of milk supplies 52 samples were examined by guinea-pig inoculation for the presence of tubercle bacilli. All were reported negative.

Bacteriological Examination of Milk.—In addition to the samples of milk taken for examination for tubercle bacilli, 45 samples were also taken for the methylene blue (4½/5½ hours) reduction test.

The results of these examinations showed that 4 samples of tuberculin tested milk failed to satisfy the methylene blue test required by the Regulations.

153 samples of pasteurised milk were also examined for the methylene blue (30 minutes) test. 2 samples failed to satisfy the test.

Examination of Milk for the presence of Phosphatase.—156 samples of milk were also examined during the year for the presence of phosphatase. All samples were reported satisfactory.

Turbidity Test for Sterilised Milk.—During the year 44 samples were submitted for this test. All were reported to be satisfactory.

Milk-in-Schools Scheme.—All milk now supplied to schools under the Milk-in-Schools Scheme is milk for which a pasteuriser’s licence has been granted. Careful supervision is exercised by the Public Health Inspectors and frequent samples are taken for chemical examination and for examination for bacterial contamination.

The number of samples taken during 1959 and the results are as follows:

1. Samples taken for chemical analysis	.....	.....	.....	.....	177
Number reported below standard	.....	.....	.....	.....	nil
2. Samples examined for bacteriological cleanliness	.....	.....	.....	.....	6
Number reported to be unsatisfactory	.....	.....	.....	.....	nil
3. Samples examined for the presence of tubercle bacilli	.....	.....	.....	.....	6
Number in which tubercle bacilli was found	.....	.....	.....	.....	nil

The chemical analyses of the above samples were carried out by means of the Gerber Test at the Department’s own laboratory, and only in doubtful cases were samples examined by the Public Analyst.

Ice Cream Premises.—The following are the particulars at the end of the year of registrations under the St. Helens Corporation Act, 1933, of manufacturers and vendors of ice cream and the premises used by them:—

Manufacturers and Vendors	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3
Vendors only	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	317
Premises for manufacture and sale	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3
Premises for sale only	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	338

The 317 vendors mentioned above sell ice cream in wrapped packages only.

128 samples of ice cream were taken during the year for bacteriological examination by the Methylene Blue Test. These samples were taken from manufacturers and vendors whose premises are situate both inside and outside the Borough.

Results of Ice Cream Sampling

	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4
Producers outside the Borough	54	8	4	2
Producers inside the Borough	41	8	3	8
	95	16	7	10

158 samples of Lolly Ices were taken during the year for bacteriological examination and were reported to be satisfactory.

All ice cream manufacturers' premises and plants have now been brought up to a satisfactory hygienic standard. Further, all vehicles used for the sale of unwrapped ice cream are provided with satisfactory supplies of hot and cold water and suitable washing facilities.

Very few contraventions of the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment, etc.) Regulations, 1947 to 1952, were found during the year. Manufacturers and vendors are generally making a serious effort to comply with the requirements of these Regulations.

During the year, 435 visits of inspection were made to ice cream premises in St. Helens.

FOOD AND DRUGS.

Food and Drugs Act, 1955.—During 1959, 215 formal samples and 124 informal samples of various foods and drugs were submitted to the Public Analyst, and 13 (4%) were reported as adulterated.

The legal proceedings pending at the end of 1958 in respect of samples of (a) Cherry Wine, (b) Non-alcoholic Creme-de-Menthe Flavour, and (c) Non-alcoholic Rum Flavour, resulted in fines of (a) £8, (b) £10 and (c) £10 being imposed on the offenders.

In the cases of two formal samples of milk reported to be deficient in fat, and one formal sample of Golden Raising Powder reported to be deficient in available carbon dioxide, the vendors were warned by the Public Health Committee.

Appropriate action was taken by the Public Health Inspector's Department in respect of 10 other informal samples reported as adulterated.

Five instances of extraneous matter being found in foodstuffs were dealt with by warnings by the Public Health Committee, viz:—

- (1) Beef pie containing mould.
- (2) Steak containing a fly.
- (3) Bread containing a fly.
- (4) Cockles containing chewing gum.
- (5) Cheese containing pieces of glass.

The Condensed Milk Regulations, 1959.

The Public Health (Dried Milk) Regulations, 1923 and 1927.

No infringements of these Regulations were found during the year.

Public Health (Preservatives, etc., in Food) Regulations, 1925-1940.—All samples submitted to the Public Analyst under the Food and Drugs Act, 1955 were also examined for the presence of preservatives.

Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs Act, 1926.—One sample of fertiliser was taken under the above Act during the year. It was reported to be satisfactory.

Pharmacy and Poisons Act, 1933.—At the end of the year there were 44 persons entered in the Local Authority's list of persons entitled to sell poisons included in Part II of the Poisons List. The number of premises concerned was 65.

64 visits were paid to these premises and no infringements of the Act were found.

Pharmacy and Medicines Act, 1941.—No infringements of this Act were found during the year.

Bakehouses.—There are 56 bakehouses in St. Helens and mechanical power is employed in 53 instances.

77 visits of inspection to these premises were made during the year.

DISEASES OF ANIMALS ACTS.

Tuberculosis Order, 1938.—No cases under this Order were reported during the year.

Anthrax.—One case of suspected Anthrax was reported during the year but the disease was not confirmed.

Swine Fever.—7 cases of suspected Swine Fever were reported. In one instance the disease was confirmed.

Foot and Mouth Disease.—No cases of Foot and Mouth Disease were reported during the year.

Fowl Pest.—3 cases of suspected Fowl Pest were reported during the year, but the disease was not confirmed.

XVIII.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER.—The water supply is from deep wells and boreholes in new red sandstone at Eccleston Hill, Whiston, Knowsley, Kirkby and Melling, supplemented by a supply from the Liverpool Corporation Rivington Main, and water from red sandstone above the coal measures at Clock Face and Collins Green. The water from the last-mentioned source is subjected to chlorination and high pressure filtration before distribution.

The water from the deep wells and from Collins Green and Clock Face is hard, the average hardness being 22.6° and 27° respectively, and the hardness of both is reduced to approximately 10.5° by softening processes before distribution. The water from the Liverpool Corporation Rivington Main is soft and is blended with hard water before distribution, so that in its ultimate distribution it also approximates to 10.5° .

The principal mains extensions carried out during the year totalled 5,604 lineal yards.

The supply has been satisfactory in both quality and quantity throughout the year. Bacteriological examinations of the water were made at regular intervals at the sources of supply, and at the reservoirs prior to distribution into supply, in all cases after chlorination. The number of samples examined during the year was 552.

In addition, 14 samples of tap water were submitted by the Public Health Inspector's Department for bacteriological examination.

All supplies are chlorinated before distribution.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.—The supervision of rivers and streams in St. Helens is carried out by the Mersey River Board.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.—Reconstruction work on the diversion and renewal of the Robins Lane Section of the Sutton Intercepting Sewer was completed in July. This comprised a 33 in. diameter relief sewer through Ellen Street to Ellamsbridge Road which has relieved the flooding under Robins Lane Railway Bridge.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.—During the year 13 privy middens were demolished as a result of conversion to the water carriage system, pail and bin system, and through slum clearance demolition. At the end of the year 159 pail closets and 105 privy middens were in use serving 142 and 163 premises respectively.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.—During 1959 the whole of the house refuse was disposed of by controlled tipping at Kurtz Tip, Jackson Street and, for a period of 9 months, at the Hard Lane Quarry Tip.

A further Fore and Aft Tipping Refuse collection vehicle has been purchased, which brings the total number of this type of vehicle in use to eight. Further, $1\frac{1}{4}$ cu. yd. bulk storage refuse containers have been installed at hospitals. Plans have been approved for a new sub-depot at Hard Lane to cover the Windleshaw, Moss Bank and Clinkham Wood areas.

HOUSE REFUSE ACCOMMODATION.—The scheme for the provision and maintenance of dustbins and the abolition of ashpits is now in operation throughout the Borough.

Staff shortage again seriously curtailed that part of the programme dealing with the abolition of fixed ashpits. By the end of the year 138 ashpits serving 254 houses had been demolished or converted under the scheme.

TAYLOR PARK PADDLING POOL.—6 samples were taken of the water in this pool for bacteriological examination. Treatment of the water was carried out at intervals throughout the summer months under the supervision of the Public Health Inspector's Department. 6 samples were also taken of the water in the boating pool, which is used for swimming during the summer months.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION.—For the measurement of atmospheric pollution in St. Helens the following observation stations are now maintained:—

Claughton Street Clinic	.....	.....	Standard Deposit Gauge. Lead Peroxide Instrument.
Albion Street Clinic	.....	.....	Standard Deposit Gauge. Lead Peroxide Instrument.
Eccleston Hill Waterworks	.....		Standard Deposit Gauge. Lead Peroxide Instrument.
Victoria Park	.....	.....	Standard Deposit Gauge. Lead Peroxide Instrument.
Peasley Cross Isolation Hospital	.....		Lead Peroxide Instrument.
Sutton Manor Sewage Works	.....		Lead Peroxide Instrument.
Public Health Inspector's Office, Hardshaw Street	.....	.....	Smoke filter

No meeting of the St. Helens and District (Atmospheric Pollution) Joint Consultative Committee was held during the year.

565 observations were taken of industrial chimneys during the year. In 20 instances black smoke was emitted for more than two minutes during the half-hour period of observation. Representations were made with the firms

concerned with a view to the diminution of the nuisances. As a result of consultations with the firms concerned, improvements in boiler plants and furnaces and in their operation have been effected. 71 inspections of boiler-house plants were made during the year.

As a result of a report made to the Council by the Chief Public Health Inspector, a decision was made to carry out a programme of declaring Smoke Control Areas to cover the whole of the Borough by the end of 1970. From this target a five-year plan for Smoke Control Areas was forwarded to the Minister of Housing and Local Government as requested in his Circular No. 5/59. Details of the plan as submitted are as follows:—

	Premises	Dwellings	Acres
Covered by Orders made up to 31/12/58	—	—	—
Estimated additions covered by Orders to be made during—			
1959	2,005	1,984	300
1960	2,914	2,890	1,360
1961	3,016	2,958	790
1962	3,985	3,918	350
1963	2,776	2,733	2,220
Final objective (the total numbers it is intended ultimately to cover by 1970)	36,414	33,462	8,887

Discussions were held during the year with the producers of solid smokeless fuels on the availability of such fuels for the proposed first two Smoke Control Areas comprising 1681 premises. Replies were received that sufficient quantities of such fuels were available to proceed with the Areas.

It was not found possible to proceed with the enforcement of Orders during 1959 as shown above. It is anticipated that the programme of declaring Smoke Control Areas will be commenced during 1960.

Factories.—5 defects were reported by H.M. Inspector of Factories during the year and 33 instances of unsuitable or defective sanitary conveniences were dealt with. A total of 63 visits of inspection were made to factories during 1959.

Table S.I.2. gives particulars of the administrative action taken under the Factories Act, 1937.

Table S.I.2.

PART I OF THE ACT.

1.—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	33	1	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	291	62	5	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	17	—	—	—
TOTAL	341	63	5	—

2.— CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they are reckoned as two, three, or more "cases").

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	Referred By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	33	13	—	5	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	33	13	—	5	—

PART VIII OF THE ACT
OUTWORK
(Sections 110 and 111)

Nature of Work	SECTION 110			SECTION 111		
	No. of out-workers in August list required by Sec 110(1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices Served	Prosecutions
Wearing apparel—making, etc.	2	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	2	—	—	—	—	—

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.—The total number of visits made by the Public Health Inspectors was 26,033. The nature of these inspections is shown in Table S.I.3, and Table S.I.4 contains a list of notices served and the results of such notices.

TABLE S.I.3.

Number and nature of inspections during 1959.

(a) Number of complaints investigated :—

1. Housing defects	918
2. Choked and defective drains	342
3. Emissions of smoke	41
4. Accumulations of offensive matter	21
5. Miscellaneous	158

(b) Inspections re Sanitation and Food Supply :—

Dwellinghouses inspected	2558
Common Lodging Houses	106
Houses—Let in Lodgings	7
Tents, Vans and Sheds	331
Common Yards, Back Roads and Passages	208
Pigstyes	43
Horse-manure Middensteads	18
Places of Public Entertainment	56
Public Sanitary Conveniences	102
Schools	7
Ashes Receptacles	17
Smoke Observations	565
Visits to Boilerhouses	71
Testing drains : By smoke	73
By water	2
By coloured water	57
By breaking down	23

Carried forward 4244

TABLE S.1.3—*continued.*

Number and nature of inspections during 1959.

(b) Inspections re Sanitation and Food Supply— <i>continued</i>	4244
Factories Act, 1937 :	
Factories without mechanical power	1
Factories with mechanical power	62
Workplaces	14
Outworkers	4
Broker's Premises	5
Shops Act, 1950	311
Fried Fish Shops.....	109
Fishmongers' and Greengrocers'	172
Butchers' Shops	324
Grocers' and General Shops	1062
Bakehouses	77
Canteens	106
Private Slaughterhouse	34
Public Houses, Beer Houses, etc.	186
Food Preparing and Storing Places	360
Food Hawkers' Storage Accommodation and Market Stalls	549
Merchandise Marks Acts & Orders	67
Farms, Smallholdings etc.	63
Dairies & Milkshops	494
Ice Cream Premises	435
Samples of milk procured for bacteriological and biological examination	304
Samples of Ice Cream	128
Samples of Ice Lollies	158
Samples of drinking water for bacteriological examination	14
Samples of swimming bath water for bacteriological examination	12
Samples of other foodstuffs and swabs for bacteriological examination	5
Samples of milk and other foodstuffs for chemical analysis	516
Samples of Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs	1
Pet Animals Act, 1951	9
Pharmacy and Poisons Act, 1933	64
Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949	4097
Inspection of dwellinghouses and other premises for vermin infestation	148
Food Poisoning Enquiries	9
Visits to work in progress	8746
Visits re Housing—measurement for "Permitted Numbers"	173
Refuse Tips and Spoilbanks	92
Hairdressers' and Barbers' Premises.....	152
Atmospheric Pollution Gauges	102
Rent Act, 1957—Inspections re Certificates of Disrepair	145
Housing Act, 1949—Inspections re Improvement Grants	64
Miscellaneous Visits (interviews, etc.)	2415
	<hr/> 26033 <hr/>

Table S.I.4.

Number of defects for which notices were served during 1959, and notices complied with during the year (including outstanding notices from previous year)

Subject of Notices	Pre-liminary notices	Statu-tory notices	Number complied with
Dampness arising from defective roofs, eavesgutters, rainwater pipes and pointing	1397	955	1279
Defective and choked drains, closets, cesspools, etc.	316	82	304
Absence of proper sink	26	8	7
Unsatisfactory yard paving	22	26	18
Filthy or verminous condition of premises	13	—	—
Accumulation of manure and offensive matter	1	—	—
Other housing defects	1925	1329	1545
Excessive emissions of smoke	8	3	2
Miscellaneous	54	27	35
Contraventions of :—			
Factories Act, 1937	5	—	1
Shops Act, 1950	19	—	—
Rent Restrictions Regulations.....	2	—	—
Food Hygiene Regulations 1955	178	—	8
Agriculture (Safety, Health and Welfare Provisions) Act	5	—	—
	3971	2430	3199

Referred to other departments:—

To Borough Engineer.

Choked or defective sewers	52
Choked or defective street gullies	17
Waste of Water	136
Dangerous structures	141
Maintenance of Dustbins Scheme	2
Unauthorised Erection	1

To Housing Manager

Choked drains and housing defects	129
Overcrowding	5

Director of Education

Defects	3
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To North Western Gas Board

Escapes of coal gas	5
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CHOKED DRAINS.—During the year 661 complaints of choked drains were made to the Department. Of this number 337 drains were freed from obstruction by members of the staff of the Public Health Inspector's Department thus obviating the necessity for serving notices upon the owners.

PREMISES AND OCCUPATIONS WHICH CAN BE CONTROLLED BY BYELAWS OR REGULATIONS

Offensive Trades.—There are only two offensive trades in the Borough comprising 1 tripe boiler and 1 rag and bone dealer.

Camping Sites.—No sites were licensed during the year as camping sites. The legal proceedings pending at the end of 1958 in respect of two cases of unauthorised use of land for camping purposes resulted in fines of 10/- being imposed on each of 5 counts.

Houses-let-in-lodgings.—There are 5 premises known to the Department to be used as Houses-let-in-lodgings.

During the year 7 visits of inspection were paid to premises of this nature.

Common Lodging Houses.—There are at present two premises used as common lodging houses in St. Helens. 106 visits were paid to these premises during 1959. One of these has a very low standard of housing accommodation and there is urgent need for additional common lodging-house accommodation of a much improved standard.

Hairdressers and Barbers.—There were at the end of the year 179 persons registered as hairdressers or barbers, and the number of premises registered was 168.

152 visits of inspection were made to these premises during the year.

Byelaws with respect to Nuisances.—These byelaws prove very effective for the control of pig-keeping. There were 55 persons in the Borough known to be engaged in the keeping of pigs, at the end of the year. 43 visits of inspection were made to pig styes during the year.

OTHER SANITARY CONDITIONS

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.—Table S.I.5 gives particulars of the work carried out under the above-mentioned Act during the year.

The equivalent of two full-time Rodent Operators are employed by the Department for this work.

St. Helens can be regarded as being in a favourable position in regard to infestation of premises by rats. This is considered as being due to the policy of the Council over a long period in requiring the rat-proofing of drains and sewers in the case of all premises where infestations have occurred.

Shops Act, 1950.—In addition to statutory duties in regard to the ventilation and temperature of shops and the provision of sanitary conveniences, the Public Health Inspector's Department in St. Helens also takes responsibility for those provisions of the Act relating to lighting, washing facilities and facilities for the taking of meals.

19 infringements of the Shops Act, 1950, were found during the year. These were dealt with by service of informal notices.

311 visits were paid to shop premises under the Act during 1959.

Table S.I.5.
PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949
Report for year ended 31st December, 1959

	Type of Property				Total
	Local Authority	Dwelling houses	Agri-cultural	All other (including business premises)	
1. Total number of properties in Local Authority's district	100	32130	140	2580	34950
2. Number of properties inspected as a result of:					
(a) notification.....	25	171	3	76	275
(b) survey under the Act	41	135	113	264	553
(c) otherwise (e.g. when visited primarily for some other purpose).....	12	1146	43	88	1289
3. Total inspections carried out	762	1971	301	1063	4097
4. No. of properties inspected which were found to be infested by:					
(a) Rats	20	96	8	54	178
(b) Mice	34	36	—	56	126
5. No. of infested properties treated by Local Authority	37	79	8	86	210
6. Total treatments carried out	45	79	20	108	252

Places of Public Entertainment.—56 visits were paid to places of public entertainment during 1959. The condition of these premises throughout the year was found to be generally satisfactory.

By the end of the year the survey mentioned in last year's report was almost completed. In this connection 186 visits of inspection were made during the year.

Canal Boats.—There is only one canal within the Borough (the St. Helens Canal) and this has not been used for traffic for a number of years.

Mortuaries.—A Public Mortuary with post-mortem room is maintained behind the Town Hall, and is under the supervision of the Medical Officer of Health. During the year, 158 bodies were received into the mortuary and 149 post-mortem examinations were conducted.

Arrangements for the Disposal of the Dead.—At the end of the year there were 18.944 acres of land available for burials at the Borough Cemetery. There is an additional area of land adjoining the cemetery which can be utilised for extension purposes, consisting of 23.8 acres; 8.47 acres of this area will be used for the proposed Crematorium now in the course of construction and for a Garden of Remembrance, leaving 15.33 acres for future earth burials.

Public Swimming Baths.—I am indebted to Mr. M. Ward, M.I. Mun.E., M.T.P.I., A.M.I. Struct. E., Borough Engineer and Surveyor, for the following report on the public swimming baths in St. Helens:—

The Boundary Road Baths were constructed in 1890, extended in 1924, and further extensions took place in 1957/58 which included for the installation of modern treatment plant.

The present buildings contain two swimming baths, twenty-three slipper or private baths, two of which are equipped to accommodate remedial baths (Zoto-Foam and Pine) and one vapour bath.

The present changing accommodation consists of cubicles around the edge of the baths, together with a balcony in the large plunge which is curtained off for use by school children. This changing accommodation is extremely inadequate and unsuitable, and the two pools require re-tiling very badly.

The existing slipper baths are in a poor state of repair. The floors are all timber and with constant washing the wood is rotting very badly. The slipper baths themselves are old and require renewing.

Water for filling the baths is obtained from the Corporation mains as and when required.

The large plunge is served by three 8 ft. 0 in. diameter Pressure Filter Units capable of treating 37,600 gallons of water per hour at a filtration rate of 250 gallons per square foot per hour, and as the pool capacity is 94,000 gallons the rate of flow would ensure a complete recirculation period of $2\frac{1}{2}$ hours.

The small plunge is served by two 8 ft. 0 in. diameter Pressure Filter Units capable of treating 24,900 gallons of water per hour at a filtration rate of 250 gallons per square foot per hour. The rate of flow is determined by the pump, which has a capacity of 13,000 gallons per hour; this ensures a complete recirculation period of $2\frac{1}{2}$ hours.

The co-agulant added prior to filtration is sulphate of alumina, Chlorine and Soda Ash being added after filtration, the former as a steriliser and the latter to neutralise acidity. Both swimming baths are on Break Point Chlorination.

Samples for bacteriological test are taken from the pools regularly at weekly intervals and sent away for examination with generally satisfactory results.

I would point out that proposals for the extensive modernisation of the Baths to bring same up to present day standards are now awaiting the approval of the Minister of Housing and Local Government.

Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act, 1951.—Owing to the continued shortage of Public Health Inspectors, no samples of rag flock or other filling materials were taken during the year nor were any visits of inspection made.

Housing Act, 1957—Slum Clearance.—Progress was continued during the year on the two-year slum clearance programme approved by the Public Health Committee.

The St. Helens (Central Ward Nos. 2, 3 and 4) Compulsory Purchase Order, 1958, was confirmed by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government in December, 1959. Under this Order, 289 properties will be demolished and approximately 300 new dwellings will be required to re-house the persons displaced. Re-housing from these properties will commence in 1960.

During the year, two clearance areas were represented to the Public Health Committee—Baxters Lane (No. 1) C.A. comprising 29 houses, and Elephant Lane (No. 2) C.A. comprising 8 houses. Undertakings to demolish by owners were accepted in respect of 45 houses and Certificates of Unfitness were given in respect of 28 properties owned by the Corporation.

Demolition and re-housing continued during the year as follows:—

	<i>Houses Demolished</i>	<i>Persons Re-housed</i>	<i>Families Re-housed</i>
(1) Clearance Areas	129	35	13
(2) Undertakings to demolish by owners	11	99	28
(3) Certificates of Unfitness by M.O.H.	8	24	7
Total	<u>148</u>	<u>158</u>	<u>48</u>

XIX.—HOUSING.

Rent Act, 1957

The following are particulars of applications received under this Act during the year:—

(1) Number of applications for Certificates of Disrepair.....	125
(2) Number of decisions to issue Certificates	
(a) in respect of some but not all defects	103
(b) in respect of all defects	22
(3) Number of Undertakings given by landlords	68
(4) Number of Certificates of Disrepair issued	55
(5) Applications by landlords for cancellation of Certificates	28
(6) Objections by tenants to cancellation of Certificates	7
(7) Certificates cancelled by Local Authority	23
(8) Decisions by Local Authority to cancel certificates in spite of objections	2

DISINFESTATION OF PREMISES AND HOUSEHOLD EFFECTS

During the year, 502 inspections of dwellinghouses and food premises for vermin infestation were made, and the following disinfestation work was carried out:—

(1) Privately owned dwellinghouses	177
(2) Occupied Council houses	115
(3) Food premises	11
(4) Corporation buildings, other than dwellinghouses	8
(5) Other buildings.....	43
Total No. of premises treated	354

The insecticides used were either D.D.T. or Gammexane.

During the year 30 persons were sent to the Peasley Cross Isolation Hospital for the cleansing of themselves and their clothing. In most of these cases bedding was also disinfested by steam.

